

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 9.32AM ON WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2014 AT MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: S Grant (Chief Executive Officer), S Watts (Committee Secretary), D McCaul (Senior Building Control Officer), M Hoggard, R Vaughan (District Planners).

1. MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO BE RAISED AS URGENT BUSINESS

1. Making Good Decisions Course (Councillor Blunt)

2. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

a) Building

There were 5 building consents with a combined construction value of \$543,630 issued for the month of February. Councillor Millton enquired what revenue was generated from the 5 consents and whether the information could be included in the Building Report in future. It was noted this information was shown in the graph form on the Budget Report.

Mayor Gray enquired regarding income from Christchurch building consents. The Chief Executive Officer advised no income had been received as yet. The Senior Building Control Officer advised an invoice had been raised.

b) Resource Planning

One application for subdivision had been received since the last report. There were currently no notified consents in progress.

c) District and Environmental Planning

Te Korowai

The District Planner advised the Government had announced that special legislation would be put in place for implementation of the Te Korowai Coastal Marine Strategy. The Bill would go through the select committee process.

Waste Minimisation

An application had been made to the Keep New Zealand Beautiful Fund for new street recycling bins. The bins cost between \$900 and \$1200 each and approximately 13 were required.

Moved by Councillor Morgan, seconded by Mayor Gray and resolved that the Environmental Services Reports be received.

3. PROPOSAL – REESTABLISHMENT OF PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Included in the agenda was a report on the possible reestablishment of the Petroleum Exploration Subcommittee. Councillor Morgan had requested a report be prepared. Arguments for and against the reformation were included in the report.

The Chief Executive Officer advised looking at oil and gas issues was quite different to looking at the broad issue of sustainability and changing the community from fossil fuels to other alternatives. He advised there were different views for and against. He felt the matter was about the best use of resources and that was what Council needed to consider going forward.

Councillor Blunt advised Council had heard from R Hogan earlier in the day and also that it was unlikely any submission made would have any effect. However two new pieces of information had been provided and he felt more information may be available, which may not be found elsewhere, through the subcommittee process which he felt was important.

Councillor Diver advised he felt a subcommittee was not needed and noted there were staff and other costs associated with having a subcommittee.

Councillor Morgan raised the broader issues of sustainability and Council's philosophy noting Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy and Earthcheck certification. She felt there was value in a subcommittee which could provide leadership and provide an avenue for consultation. She noted the District Planner had done a great job with submissions regarding petroleum exploration issues but if she was to no longer work for the Council a wealth of knowledge would be lost. She did not see that a subcommittee would solely submit to the Government but would have discussions around what the community could do. It could deal with multiple issues and the larger picture of sustainability.

Councillor Morgan enquired if a subcommittee needed staff input. The Chief Executive Officer advised it was not necessary to have a staff member however they could advise and provide reports. It was noted advice could be obtained elsewhere.

Councillor Morgan felt the issue of Petroleum Exploration had been a community issue and there were still things that were perhaps not clear and there may be things that still needed to be resolved.

Moved by Councillor Morgan, seconded by Councillor Blunt that the Petroleum Subcommittee be reestablished and a terms of reference created to determine what its role would be.

Discussion:

Mayor Gray felt Kaikoura's point of difference was Earthcheck and it was gaining global attention and he felt that was the track Council should take.

Councillor Millton felt the idea of a subcommittee was sound but he felt Council was too small to warrant another subcommittee and there were a lot of initiatives already happening in the community.

Councillor Howden felt sustainability and petroleum exploration were two completely different things and she did not want them being mixed up.

The motion was put and lost.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

1. Making Good Decisions Course

Councillor Bunt had attended the 2 day course in Nelson. He wished to clarify if everybody who sat on the Hearings and Applications Committee needed to be qualified. He noted the course was very expensive. He advised the majority of people at the course had been able to quote a lot of the Act and then there were a couple of people who knew nothing. He felt there were in depth decisions that the Committee was expected to make and he suggested one option was to use those qualified in larger Councils to look at the bigger issues or seek outside commissioners.

It was noted commissioners could be very expensive. The Chief Executive Officer advised when dealing with applications which were more complex the level of expertise required was sought.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30am.