



MINUTES

Operations Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Council Chambers
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 5 August 2020

at 4:00 pm

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1. Present

Clr Wayne McAndrew (Chair)
Clr Ray Thompson (Mayor)
Clr Joe Smith
Clr Steven Ring

Officers:

Craig Butler - General Manager
Jonathon Edgecombe - Director Infrastructure Services
Daniel Buckens - Director Water & Waste Water
Lewis Bezzina - Transport Manager
David Anderson - Building and Recreation Facilities Manager

2. Apologies

Clr Deanne Goodsell

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held on the 1st July 2020 were presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Monday 27th July 2020.

ACTION

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

5. Declaration of Interest

Nil

6. Staff Reports

6.1. Standing Item - Cullen Bullen Sewerage Scheme Update

The Director of Water and Waste Water gave an overview of the project. It was noted by the committee that the acquisition of the land is currently holding up the project. It was advised that the General Manager is taking over this part of the project with relation to the land acquisition. The committee were advised that the sale process negotiations are currently with the original contact. It was advised that Council has received a revised valuation which took approximately 4 weeks to complete, noting that the original value was correct but have included additional funds for the of having a STP imposing on the land. With a good report provided administration team will be meeting with the prospected owners with the revised valuation. It was also advised that current land owner will be encourage to seek their own valuation of the land.

The Director of Water and Waste Water advised that the team is proceeding with the low pressure system, supply and design contract, noting that nothing can happen until the site is acquired. Should this particular parcel of land not become available, other nearby land options will be looked into by the Water and Waste Water Department and that the Director Water and Waste Water would then need to declare an interest and would remove himself from the discussion the land sale.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. Council note the report
2. Council notes the budget estimates exceed the project funding and that other funding sources be investigated.
3. Calling of tenders Design and Construction for the Sewerage Treatment Plant are delayed until land matters are resolved.

MOVED: Councillor J Smith

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.2. Standing Item - Water and Sewer Infrastructure Update

The Director of Water and Waste Water advised that Council is awaiting on advice from the RFS in relation to grant funding that Council has made an application for funding toward the extension of the water main in Crane Road Lithgow.

Mains & Services

It was advised that there has not been many breaks occurring in the region although there has been ongoing issues with water quality in Inch Street. Investigations of the matter are being undertaken as there is a report of water being taken from the mains within the area. Council staff have been cleaning the water mains in the area being effected near the bend of Inch Street and Mortlock close.

Clr Thompson asked where the water would be illegally taken from. It was advised that most water carts can access the hydrants within the road and there is an area prone to this activity taking place. It was noted that a lot of out of area suppliers are aware of this spot. Administration has also contacted private entities in the area to confirm that this won't happen again and provided details of the Water Standpipe where water can be purchased.

The Director of Water and Waste Water advised that the long awaited standpipes have been commission throughout the LGA. Some have leaks and have been turned off until leak is repaired by Council plumbers. Additional hardware need to be installed. A media release to be issued to advised the commissioning of the standpipes.

Further discussions were had in relation to solutions to remove the possibility of stealing of water. It was advised that Council cannot lock hydrants and the RFS have tried multiple times to lock the hydrant in the Glen Davis Area with no success as the locks are just cut off. Discussion was held on potential to prosecute offenders.

The Director of Water and Waste Water advised that the billing cycle has return to normal with quarterly accounts issued. The new system is able to provide reporting on the annual return and hope that the water loss/non-revenue water has dropped now having the active leak detection.

Clr Smith advised that there is fire reel hoses at the Wallerawang Grandstand, Clr McAndrew also advised that there is one at Kremer Park Portland that always looks to be unreeled and believed people ie caravaners may be taking water from and suggested that administration look into the metering of these reels as they should not be used unless there is a fire emergency.

ACTION

THAT the committee notes the report provided on the Water and Sewer Infrastructure update.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.3. Policy Review - Policy 10.11 Crown and Private Roads – Maintenance and Responsibilities & 10.16 - Roadworks - Provision of Unusable Materials to Property Owners

The Director Infrastructure Service provided advice to the committee regarding the two policies that have been reviewed. The policies were presented to the committee for information and discussion before being presented to Council.

Policy 10.16 - Roadworks- Provision of Unusable Materials to Property Owners. This policy assists staff with the disposal of unwanted fill/ soil by mutual agreement between land owner and Council for this process is economically easier for Council. This procedure is in writing to continue this into the future.

Policy 10.11 - Crown and Private Roads - Maintenance and Responsibility. This policy assists staff should a road get transferred to Council or a request is received to have the road to be maintained. The fees will be pre-determined in a quote to the owners of the road through a work at owners cost (WOC) agreement. With private road Council can agree directly with the owner but should it be a crown road , permission must be provided by the crown to undertake works.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council review and endorse the amended Policy 10.11 - Crown and Private Roads - Maintenance and Policy 10.16 – Roadworks – Provision of Unusable Materials to Property Owners for public exhibition for a period of 28 days, prior to consideration of its adoption.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor R Thompson

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.4. Cllr S Ring - Dangerous Trees Policy

Cllr Ring raised this matter as recently he was approached by business owners with relation to large trees within the carpark in Naomi Street. It was noted that the trees were assessed and removed by arborist but there is no policy in relation to risk management of dangerous trees within public spaces and parks. Having a policy in place for dangerous trees and risk management would protect Council from potential risk.

The Administration is in the process of drafting a policy for Council consideration. It was noted that Council although doesn't have a policy, inspections are carried out within the parks and public places particular with high risks are inspected on a regular basis.

The Building and Recreation Facilities Manager advised that extensive works on trees in the area have been carried out over the past couple of years, particularly after the recent bushfires. Residents are also making contact with Council in relation to tree and requests are being acted on as they come in. Post COVID-19, the administration will arrange for staff to be trained with the view to ensure more internal resources are available for tree assessments.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council consider the development of a Dangerous Tree Policy.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

CARRIED: Unanimously

6.5. Cllr S Ring - Union Theatre Contract Management

Cllr Ring gave advice on this item with questions/ answers that were raised/provided at the previous Council meeting. It was asked whether in the event project costs exceed what is budgeted, will a report to the committee would be presented for endorsement. It was also asked that regular updates be presented to the committee of capital project progress. Concerns were raised that information on project matters before the media before Councillors were informed.

It was agreed that administration will strive to keep Council better informed when issues on projects arise.

Cllr McAndrew raised the matter in relation to asbestos and if there is a clear policy on how on training and dealing with the material. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that Council does have a policy in place with staff having been trained to removal small amounts with large amount be contracted out to licensed removalists to undertake these task. Small halls have had small samples taken to be tested , with results determining the action to be undertaken.

The Director of Water and Waste Water advised that Council has recently revised its process with regard to the removal of AC water mains (containing asbestos).

ACTION

THAT Council notes the report on the Union Theatre.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor J Smith

CARRIED: Unanimously

7. General Business

Clr Thompson raised resident concerns that back in 2015 Dulhunty street in Portland was prepared and ready for seal but no sealing works were carried out. The Director Infrastructure Services to carry out investigations on the matter.

It was also raised that there has been feedback from residents in relation to the recently sealed section of Hazelgrove Road, Tarana that the road is breaking up on the edges. The Transport Manager agreed to undertake investigations and it was noted that there was a drainage issue in the area that has been rectified.

At a previous Council meeting it was resolved to write a letter in relation to Eskbank Station as a matter of urgency. The General Manager believed that the letter was sent on the 14th July and will follow up on this matter.

A petition has recently surfaced in relation to the sealing of the Hartley Vale Road, Hartley as the residents are concerned of people speeding in the area. Capital works such as the Harley Vale road are were assessed based on resource hungry or hard to access sites, this particular stretch was assessed and warrants a seal and is also a designated detour route. The work will also include vegetation removal /line marking / drainage improvements.

Clr Ring raised the matter of Walker Street / Kelly Street Hartley. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that the RMS (aka Transport NSW) will advise on their timeframes for the Great Western Highway duplication project. Council will revise its scope accordingly and advise the committee as such.

Hughes Lane Marrangaroo - The Transport Manager advised that there has been reports received about a section of road that is failing and this is believed to be caused by a fish river water supply. Further investigation to be undertaken.

Clr Ring raised the issues of Stacks Road after the recent grading / rain event. The Transport Manager advised that the road is currently being rectified and Council processes improved.

Clr Smith advised that the staff have done a great job on the repair of the roads within Lake Wallace but is concerned that parents using the designated parking area for the school are now speeding along the newly graded roads. The Director Infrastructure Services advised that an information campaign has been put to the school. It was noted that it is hard to implement traffic calming measures on unsealed roads and there is currently speed zone signage located at the

entrance of the lake. As the road is not a public road as such it would be difficult for law enforcement to issue penalty infringements. It was advised that this matter will be raised at TALC for further discussion. With the school having benefit of this area for parking , a letter will be sent to the school to issue notice to parents and caregivers. Clr Smith also requested an onsite meeting to occur next week to discuss the water pooling issue in the parking area.

Clr Smith noted the great job of the erection of the new fence at the Marjorie Jackson Oval Soccer Fields and also advised that is a credit to staff undertaking works.

The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that he met with environmental consultants last week in relation to the reeds and trees in Lake Wallace. The report has been sent to the the administration for review with general feedback not to remove the reeds, but options to alleviate the problem. The final report will be presented to a future operation committee.

Clr Smith raised that there is a green hut behind the old sheds at Lake Wallace is a stopover on the heritage trail that runs through the area, but recently has been a haven for bad behavior. It was noted that the heritage committee have put a request to Centennial and Energy Australia to have the hut moved to the Wallerawang Oval.

Clr McAndrew noticed that there is quite a large number of bins in Clarence Pirie Park, Capertee. It was noted that the process of removal will start shortly with the remaining bins to be scattered around the park.

8. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 4:00pm in the Council Chambers

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 05:15 pm.