
MINUTES
of the
ENGINEERING SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
held
9.30 am, Thursday, 11 April 2019
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Councillor S G Bryant (Chair), Mayor R G Kempthorne, Councillors S R Brown, P L Canton, M J Greening, P H Hawkes, T B King, C M Maling, D E McNamara, D J Ogilvie, P F Sangster, T A Tuffnell, A C Turley and D M Wensley

In Attendance: Engineering Services Manager (R Kirby), Programme Delivery Manager (R McGuigan), Transportation Manager (J McPherson), Utilities Manager (M Schruer) and Senior Executive Assistant (R L Scherer)

Part Attendance: Programme Leader, Activity Planning (J Neame), Communications Officer (B Catley), Team Leader – Utilities Administration (N Fisher), Water Engineer (B Marsay), Waste Management Engineer (G Poxon) and Activity Planning Adviser (D Bryant)

1 OPENING, WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this first Engineering Services Committee meeting of 2019.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Cr McNamara/Cr Hawkes

ESC19-04-1

That apologies for lateness from Cr T B King and Cr P Canton be accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Rodney Laing and Sylvan from NZ Post spoke about the proposal to allow Paxster vehicles on footpaths in Richmond. Mr Laing noted that Nelson City Council had recently approved a trial of Paxsters on their footpaths.

Sylvan said that NZ Post are yet to roll out the Paxster service in Nelson. He noted that NZ Post staff are working with the Accessibility for all Forum (A4A) on their proposed routes in Nelson. He noted that the delivery service will not be offered near schools and rest homes and that some areas will not be suitable for Paxster use at all.

Sylvan said that Paxster drivers are trained to move off the footpath when they encounter pedestrians and if the Paxster is following someone, the driver will follow at their speed. He noted that there had been only four reports nationwide regarding interactions between Paxsters and pedestrians and that three of these included abuse from a homeless person. The other incident involved a person who, while texting on their cellphone, walked into a Paxster.

Maxwell Clark spoke about the lack of footpaths in Lower Queen Street. He noted that Lower Queen Street has the highest traffic volume in the Tasman District and yet it doesn't have any footpaths on either side of the road. Mr Clark asserted that the Council has a legal responsibility to provide core services to meet the H&S Act. He said that pedestrians, including school children are currently using the grass verge to walk to and from the Richmond town centre. Mr Clark requested that Council staff ensure a footpath on Lower Queen Street is placed as a high priority on the footpath matrix.

Malcolm Saunders spoke of his concerns about the intrusion of Paxsters on Richmond footpaths. He believes that Paxsters are not compatible or feasible on the narrow footpaths. Mr Saunders spoke about the growth in other forms of transport such as bikes and scooters that are causing issues on local footpaths and suggested that Paxsters will add to this problem.

Allan Kneale representing the Automobile Association noted that the Association was very pleased with the work carried out on the Clover Road intersection with SH6. He also spoke about the proposed works at the Champion Road/Salisbury Road intersection and suggested that the project is now urgent. He noted that the Association had raised the issues of safety at this intersection in late 2014 and that they are very concerned about doubts surrounding the funding for the project. Mr Kneale said that the Association is happy to help in ensuring that this work goes ahead as soon as possible.

Mr Kneale said that the AA members support the Council's speed management plan and noted that the development of safe and appropriate speeds will be challenging. Mr Kneale suggested that changing speed limits should not be the only solution to road safety and urged the Council to look at the road itself to see what safety improvements may be required. Mr Kneale said that 87% of AA members oppose an open road speed limit to 90 kmh but support 40 kmh in urban areas.

Mayor Kempthorne left the meeting at 9.50 am.

Chris Allison spoke about the proposal to introduce Paxsters on Richmond streets. Mr Allison referred to the Hamilton City trial and the resident's concerns about Paxsters use. Mr Allison spoke about the issue of who has right of way on the footpath and suppressed demand.

Cr Wensley spoke on behalf of **Simon Horrocks**, an A4A member and wheelchair user. Mr Horrocks spoke about the issue of footpaths becoming increasingly dangerous for all users.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 LATE ITEMS

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr Sangster/Cr Hawkes

ESC19-04-2

That the minutes of the Engineering Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, 28 February 2019, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Introduction of New Staff

Engineering Services Manager, Richard Kirby introduced three new Engineering Services staff members – Team Leader, Utilities Administration, Nikki Fisher, Water Engineer, Becky Marsay and Waste Management Engineer, Graham Poxon.

Change in order of reports in today's meeting agenda

The Chairman noted that he had agreed to a request from the Engineering Services Manager to change the order of presentation of today's reports. He said that the report regarding budget carry forwards would be discussed after the Engineering Services Activity Update.

7 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Nil

8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 REPORTS

9.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman spoke to his report contained in the agenda which was taken as read. He noted that he had recently spoken with the Chair of the Nelson Regional Transport Committee who shares his concerns regarding the increasing number of fatal accidents in New Zealand.

Moved Cr Sangster/Cr McNamara

ESC19-04-3

That the Engineering Services Committee receives the Chairman's Report

RESC19-04-01.

CARRIED

9.2 Paxster Use of Tasman District Footpaths

Transportation Manager, Jamie McPherson spoke to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read. Mr McPherson provided some background to the report and noted that the use of Paxsters on Richmond footpaths had been presented to the committee on two previous occasions.

In response to a question, Mr McPherson said that the Council expects that the Paxster vehicles will emit an audible warning similar to that from electric cars. He also noted that Council staff will

require assurance from NZ Post that they have managed the blind spot issue with the Paxster vehicles. He said that both issues will be a condition of the permit to use Paxsters on Richmond streets.

In response to a question about the costs so far for bringing the proposal to introduce Paxsters to the Council, Mr McPherson said that costs had been minor. Staff had spent some time in overseeing the start-up phase and assessing exclusion areas but overall these costs were not a significant cost.

Mayor Kempthorne returned to the meeting at 10.10 am.

In response to a question regarding the use of DX delivery motor cycles on footpaths, Mr McPherson said that the enforcement of this practice is a Police matter. He also noted that any issues with Paxster use will be reported to NZ Post and if they are significant the Council can stop their use on Richmond footpaths.

It was suggested that the Paxsters could include signage saying “I give way to pedestrians” and that an 0800 number to rate their drivers could be introduced similar to that currently used by heavy vehicles to report any errant driving.

In response to a question about possible damage to the grass berms beside footpaths, Mr McPherson agreed that a clause could be included in the approval document. He said that the idea of signage could also be included in the approval for NZ Post to use the Paxsters.

In response to a question, Mr McPherson confirmed that the Paxsters will make deliveries in Richmond two to three times each week.

Mayor Kempthorne left the meeting at 10.17 am.

The committee discussed timing of the Paxster trial period. Mr McPherson agreed that a sunset clause could be set for the trial period. He also noted that the Council can withdraw approval for Paxster use on Richmond footpaths at any time.

Cr King joined the meeting at 10.33 am.

Cr Wensley proposed a motion:

That the Engineering Services Committee does not approve the use of Paxster vehicles in footpaths in Tasman District”.

She noted that A4A has discussed the Paxster issue for some time and the Forum members have serious concerns with safety issues, including the blind spot and audible sound. She also said that A4A supports a policy for hierarchy on footpath use.

Cr Turley seconded Cr Wensley’s motion.

Cr Ogilvie stated his opposition to the motion. He spoke about the current use of mobility scooters to deliver the Motueka Guardian to householders in Motueka every week.

Cr Canton joined the meeting at 10.43 am.

Cr Wensley’s motion was put and was lost.

Cr Maling moved the staff recommendation which Cr Hawkes seconded.

Cr Greening moved an amendment (seconded by Cr McNamara) to the staff recommendation to include a sunset clause determining that the Paxster trial period end on 1 June 2021. The amendment was carried.

Councillors Wensley and Turley asked that their vote against the resolution be recorded.

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 11.00 am and resumed at 11.15 am.

Moved Cr Maling/Cr Hawkes

ESC19-04-4

That the Engineering Services Committee

- 1. receives the Paxster Use of Tasman District Footpaths report, RESC19-02-02; and**
- 2. approves the use of Paxster vehicles on selected footpaths in Tasman District for a period ending on 1 June 2021 in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in a revised approval document for the Footpath Operation of Electric Delivery Vehicles in the jurisdiction of Tasman District Council.**

CARRIED

9.4 Riverbed Level Monitoring Report

Rivers and Coastal Engineer, Giles Griffith spoke to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read. Mr Griffith commented that managing rivers is an inexact science.

Cr Ogilvie returned to the meeting at 11.17 am.

Cr Brown spoke about the changes in river conditions over a long period. She referred to the Aorere River which used to be muddy in the lower estuary area. She also spoke about recent discussions at the Golden Bay Community Board meeting regarding the increased deposition of sediment in popular local swimming holes in the Takaka River. In response, Mr Griffith agreed that rivers are dynamic which is one of the reasons staff survey and measure them. He said that staff had not considered the management of swimming holes but if the Council does support such management, it could be done.

In moving the resolution, Cr Tuffnell congratulated Mr Griffith and the Council team who prepared the report. He noted that the report had provided a very good understanding of how rivers work. Cr Ogilvie also commended staff for a valuable and well written report.

In response to a question regarding gravel extraction in the Lower Motupiko River, Mr Griffith agreed that this section of the river is very flood prone, however he also noted that access to remove gravel is very difficult.

In response to a question about sediment in the Lee River moving into the Waimea River, Mr Griffith said he would investigate this and report back to the committee.

Moved Cr Tuffnell/Cr Ogilvie

ESC19-04-5

That the Engineering Services Committee receives the Riverbed Level Monitoring Report, RESC19-05-04.

CARRIED

9.5 Engineering Services - Activity Update

Mr Kirby, Mr McPherson, Ms Neame, Mr McGuigan and Utilities Manager, Mike Schruer spoke

to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read.

Mr Kirby spoke about the current tight construction market which has resulted in a number of capital project tenders coming in at a significantly higher price than Council staff had estimated.

He noted that there is also a high level of construction activity in new developments and some contractors are too busy to bid for Council work. Furthermore, contractors are finding it very difficult to find qualified and experienced staff which also limits the work they can bid for. He noted that this is a nationwide issue.

Mr Kirby said that staff are in discussions with the contracting community to consider different options of procuring Council work, for example bundling projects, using fixed rates and re-examining the scope of some projects. He advised that he will report on the outcome of these discussions to a future committee meeting.

Mayor Kempthorne returned to the meeting at 11.35 am.

Cr Tuffnell spoke of his experience working in the contracting industry. He supported Mr Kirby's proposal to look at different options of procuring Council work which can benefit both the contractor and the Council.

Cr King also supported the option of working with the contractors to ensure the Council gains good value for money. He noted that it was not that long ago that contractors did not have enough work, suggesting that the current situation is part of an ongoing cycle. He suggested that the Council could consider delaying some works until the contracting market improves.

Ms Neame provided an update on the Activity Planning group activities. She advised the committee that the draft business case for the Champion Road/Salisbury Road improvement project is complete and is now with Nelson City Council for their approval. In response to a question regarding funding for the improvements, Mr McPherson explained that staff are waiting to hear if the New Zealand Transport Agency will also contribute to the project.

Mr McGuigan spoke to the Programme Delivery activity update. He noted that the group currently has 58 projects underway and of these, 22 have either funding or cost issues which has either stopped or delayed them. He advised that a number of projects require land acquisition which can cause significant delays and add to project costs.

Mr McGuigan spoke about the Bateup Road project which has incurred significant delays. He advised that as a result of a lack of qualified people to lay footpaths and kerb and channel, the contractor will not be able to meet the completion date scheduled for 6 May 2019. He noted that the Council will be recovering daily liquidated damages for this delay.

In response to a question about land acquisition and the use of the Public Works Act to compulsorily acquire land, Mr Kirby said that there is a process that needs to be followed but the reality is that some land negotiations take much longer than staff had anticipated.

In response to a question about the Wakefield Water Treatment Plant project, Mr McGuigan confirmed that staff are investigating a number of options, including a review of the whole water catchment, to meet the water supply demand in Wakefield. This information will be relayed to Wakefield residents at the upcoming Annual Plan meeting.

In response to a question regarding a possible change in project completion dates triggering a subsequent change to the Long Term Plan, Ms Neame said that she is scheduled to meet with Strategic Development staff to discuss this issue.

Mr Schruer presented the Utilities update report. He noted that there had been damage to the Redwood Valley water supply pipeline as a result of the recent fire event. He also advised the committee that the Wai-iti Dam wave works had been completed and had come in under

budget. Mr Schruer spoke about a recent leak on the Thorp Street wastewater pipeline which involved a significant amount of work to be repaired. Mr Schruer indicated that staff are considering changing opening hours at some of the resource recovery centres.

In response to a question about levels of service for water leaks, Mr Schruer noted that there are two scenarios – urgent or non-urgent repairs. If a leak is just weeping, the contractor will fix the leak as soon as possible on the next working day. However, for significant leaks, the contractor attends to the issue as soon as possible.

In response to a question regarding the damage to the Redwood Valley water supply from the fire event, Mr Schruer confirmed that the Council can claim costs for the repairs.

In response to a question regarding the recent drought response, Mr Kirby agreed that he would ask staff to prepare a summary report of events for the next Council meeting. Mayor Kempthorne agreed that a high level summary would be helpful for the community to understand the issues and our responses and help them prepare for any future drought situations.

Cr Sangster returned to the meeting at 12.10 pm.

In response to a question regarding the supply of water from Nelson City Council during the recent water shortage, Mr Kirby explained that during normal conditions, Tasman District Council actually supplies water to Nelson City Council.

In response to a question, Mr Schruer confirmed that any costs and fines for illegal connections on a water supply are managed within the relevant closed account.

Cr Sangster suggested that staff should work in partnership with the local developer for the upgrade work on the Pohara water treatment plant.

Mr McPherson presented the Transportation section of the update report. He noted that the Council's contractor had recently carried out a testing programme on streetlight poles in Mapua which had revealed one pole which had to be removed immediately.

Cr Turley and Cr Hawkes left the meeting at 12.26 pm.

In response to a question about the planned work on Otuwhero Road, Mr McPherson said that this work will be funded from the unsealed metalling programme budget.

In response to a question, Mr McPherson noted that the planned Oxford Street pedestrian refuge had been included in the work programme for some time. He also reported that Transportation staff are working with Community Development staff to find a solution for crossing points on Wensley Road.

Cr Hawkes returned to the meeting at 12.30 pm.

Cr Kempthorne left the meeting at 12.30 pm.

In response to a question Mr McPherson said that the footpath programme matrix will be presented at the Engineering Services Committee meeting on 23 May 2019.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.40 pm and resumed at 1.20 pm.

**Moved Cr McNamara/Cr King
ESC19-04-6**

That the Engineering Services Committee receives the Engineering Services - Activity Update report, RESC19-04-05.

CARRIED

9.6 Engineering Services - Estimated Budget Carry Forwards 2018-2019 Capital Works Programme

Engineering Services Manager, Richard Kirby spoke to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read.

He noted that the capital expenditure programme for Engineering Services projects this year is \$52.5 million. However, due to issues with completing some land purchases and tender prices being much higher than anticipated, it is expected that \$14.3 million of these project budgets will be carried over to the 2019/2020 year.

In response to a comment, Mr Kirby agreed that he was equally frustrated as the Councillors with the undelivered capex work programme, however other factors outside his control had adversely affected the completion of some projects.

In response to a question, Programme Delivery Manager, Russell McGuigan said that nearly all of the projects within the \$14.3 million carryover are uncommitted. He also noted that all of these projects are included in the current Long Term Plan.

Mr Kirby advised the committee that a report will be presented to the Council at the meeting on 9 May 2019 to prioritise the work programme and to release additional funding while remaining within the Council's debt cap.

The committee discussed the prioritisation of all the capital works programmes across the District. Cr King noted that there is a wide range of views within the community on what projects are critical. However, he noted that while the Council may have the budget to do the works, the Council cannot "magic up" the contractors to complete them and the Council has to accept that situation.

Mayor Kempthorne returned to the meeting at 1.30 pm.

Programme Leader, Activity Planning, Jenna Neame noted that the report to the Council on 9 May 2019 will be focused on Engineering projects looking at both budgets and the timing of projects.

Mayor Kempthorne noted that the carry forward of capital programme budgets is not new to the Council. He said that the Council appreciates the good working relationship we have with the contractors who are being as helpful as they can.

Moved Mayor Kempthorne/Cr Tuffnell

ESC19-04-7

That the Engineering Services Committee receives the Engineering Services - Estimated Budget Carry Forwards 2018-2019 Capital Works Programme report, RESC19-04-03.

CARRIED

10 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

10.1 Procedural motion to exclude the public

Moved Cr Tuffnell/Cr Hawkes

ESC19-04-4

THAT the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting. The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

10.1 Tasman's Great Taste Trial - Mapua Ferry Service

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 2.08 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: