

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 15 October 2014 commencing at 11.50 am

Present:

- Cr Trevor Kempton (Chairperson)
- Cr Graeme Bell (Deputy Chairperson)
- Cr Louise Croot MNZM
- Cr Michael Deaker
- Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
- Cr Gary Kelliher
- Cr Sam Neill
- Cr Bryan Scott
- Cr David Shepherd
- Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

- Cr Doug Brown
- Cr Gretchen Robertson

The apologies were accepted on the motion of Crs Croot and Deaker.

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker
- Wayne Scott
- Jeff Donaldson
- Jane Leahy
- Fraser McRae
- Gavin Palmer
- Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Woodhead and Croot.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/1463 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** DSE, 2/10/14

The report described community, stakeholder and staff engagement activities carried out by Stakeholder Engagement directorate staff since the last meeting of the Communications Committee.

Plan Change 6A

In response to a question Mrs Leahy explained that staff would check the current awareness level in the farming community before the region-wide awareness visits. She understood that Ravensdown and Ballance would continue to develop nutrient budgets, and they would have representatives on the OVERSEER stakeholder group. Staff from across all Council departments would be involved in the distribution of 6A information. It was estimated that 30 additional staff would be needed to distribute the information to landholders around the region, and Councillors were invited to be part of this exercise. Those who had been flagged as having difficulty in meeting 6A requirements were in most cases already scheduled for regular Compliance visits.

Land, biodiversity and biosecurity

The S (Soil) maps were now available on the Council's website.

Air quality

In response to a question about ORC support for ECan's in-house behavioural change project, Mrs Leahy advised that a decision was expected soon on ECan's application to the Ministry of Social Development for funding from the Community Development Fund.

Mrs Leahy advised that work was ongoing to strengthen contacts in areas where poor air quality was a problem.

Customers and other stakeholders

Councillors were pleased to note that policy submission forms were available on line, and forms would soon be available for ratepayers to update their rates contact information and to request rates remissions. It was pointed out that there was increasing contact via the website, and Council needed to ensure that information was accurate and up to date. Mrs Leahy agreed, noting that the website needed a better content management platform, and also needed to be more user friendly.

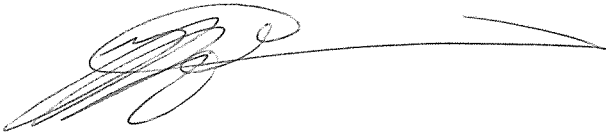
Public uncertainty over the processes for irrigation and for the 2021 mining privilege changes was noted, and the point was made that while there were significant resources available, it seemed that more education was needed in some parts of the region.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 12.12 pm



Chairperson