

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 12 AUGUST 2014 AT 7.30pm.**

**PRESENT** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Crs Bolger, Beale, Davis, Dixon, Gover, D Grant, P Grant, Highsted, Page and Sharp.

**IN ATTENDANCE** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roding Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Communications Coordinator (Sonia Gerken) and 11 members of the public in the gallery.

**APOLOGY** Cr Byars apologised for absence.

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His Worship called for any conflicts of interest.

Cr P Grant declared an interest in clause 3 - proposed parents hub due to his daughter-in-law being involved with the Gore Toy Library.

His Worship advised today marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when the first group of 18 young male volunteers left Gore to fight in World War 1.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Beale, **THAT** the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 17 June 2014, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Page, seconded by Cr Gover, **THAT** the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 24 June 2014, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

**2. PRESENTATION BY YOUTH COUNCILLOR**

Gore District Youth Councillors Luke Howden and Alex McWhirter were in attendance and provided an update on forthcoming activities being undertaken by the Youth Council.

*The Youth Councillors departed the meeting at 7.43pm*

3. REQUEST TO LEASE LAND ADJOINING GORE MULTISPORTS COMPLEX FOR A PROPOSED PARENTS HUB (SC081)

*Cr Grant declared an interest in this item and withdrew from the table.*

A report had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager following a request from three local groups, Gore Toy Library, Gore Parents Centre and Gore Playcentre seeking to combine and consolidate their respective activities onto one site with one set of outgoings. The proposed location was on Council land located at 41 Charlton Road, adjoining the Gore multisports complex. A copy of the letter received from the three organisations and a map showing possible car parking options had been circulated.

In response to Cr Gover, the Manager said the proposed location shown on the map was an indicative site.

Cr Beale advised he had had a visit from a Thames Street resident who had relocated when the multi-sports complex was constructed and who was now concerned that Thames Street would be opened up and have more traffic.

The Manager advised the Thames Street section had not been formed as a cul-de-sac. It indicated to him that it would be a continuation of what had been grazed paddocks and was now in Council ownership. It was fair to say that it may be opened up as roadway in the future. The use that was proposed did not fit from a zoning perspective so there would be a consultation process to be followed. Any concerned residents at that time would be consulted and have opportunity to have input into the process.

The Manager advised in response to His Worship that access to the site would be from the Thames Street end.

Cr Highsted preferred to have a more exact position for the hub.

In response to Cr D Grant, the Manager said the end of Wayland Street suggested by the three groups adjacent to the sports complex was held as recreation reserve whereas the area proposed and shown on the map was held in fee simple which was easier to progress.

Cr Davis was very supportive of the proposal, but not the location. By allowing the centre to be located on the Charlton Road land, it prevented any opportunity for the Council to develop the area.

Cr Sharp said when the Council purchased the land was for an access road from Charlton Road to the multi-sports complex. The proposal needed to be sited in a better position.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the Council approve in principle the general project location subject to further information,**

**AND THAT it instruct staff to progress discussions with Gore Toy Library, Gore Parents Centre and Gore Playcentre to the stage of reporting back to the Council with a specific proposal of project requirement.**

**2014/94**

*The Parks and Recreation Manager departed the meeting at 7:54pm*

**4. REPORT FROM MIGRANT SERVICES COORDINATOR**

A report from the Migrant Services Coordinator covering activities undertaken in April and May had been circulated.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Gover, seconded by Cr P Grant, THAT the report be received.**

**2014/95**

**5. SOUTHLAND SHARED SERVICES FORUM**

A copy of the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Southland Shared Services Forum held on 9 June had been circulated.

Cr Highsted noted the Chairman's remuneration had doubled in four years. Was there a reason for that?

His Worship said the workload had doubled and there was quite a lot more involved now than had been initially envisaged.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Dixon, THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Southland Shared Services Forum meeting held on 9 June 2014, be received.**

**2014/96**

**6. SCHEDULE OF BUILDING CONSENTS**

A schedule of building consents issued for June 2014 together with a comparison for the previous two years had been circulated.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the information be received.**

**2014/97**

7. FUNDING OF FREE SWIMMING LESSONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN (SC0222)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager advising that the second year of the free swimming lesson programme for primary school children had been completed. In association with the Matura Licensing Trust, a total of 1,120 children had been through year two of a three year programme.

A new application needed to be made for the 2014/15 financial year through the Trusts Community Foundation.

Cr Dixon asked if funding for the swimming lessons came from the Matura Licensing Trust.

His Worship said it came from the gaming profits generated at Trust establishments and the funding came through the Trusts Community Foundation.

Cr Dixon felt the Trust was not actually contributing itself.

His Worship said applications for gaming funding had to go through the Trusts Community Foundation.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr Gover, THAT the Gore District Council resolve to apply to the Trusts Community Foundation for the purpose of seeking financial assistance in the sum of \$30,000 as the third instalment of the three year programme to enable free swimming tuition to be offered to primary school students in the Gore District.**

**2014/98**

8. DISTRICT PLAN CHANGES (SC0466-SC0480)

A memo had been received from the Planning Consultant advising that the period for lodging appeals to the various plan changes that had been processed recently by the Council had expired. No appeals had been lodged. The Council was now required under the Resource Management Act to adopt the plan changes and provide public notice advising of the date when they became fully operative.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the Council adopt the following plan changes under clause 17 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991:**

<b>Plan Change 4</b>	<b>Significant Trees</b>
<b>Plan Change 5B</b>	<b>Mixed Use Zone</b>
<b>Plan Change 6</b>	<b>Heritage Structures</b>
<b>Plan Change 7</b>	<b>Gore Townscape Zone</b>
<b>Plan Change 8</b>	<b>Areas Susceptible to Inundation</b>
<b>Plan Change 9</b>	<b>Geotechnical Investigations</b>
<b>Plan Change 10</b>	<b>Subdivision</b>

Plan Change 11A	Residential Zones - Height
Plan Change 11B	Residential Zones - Unserviced Sites
Plan Change 11C	Residential B Zone
Plan Change 12A	Rural Zone - Site Coverage
Plan Change 12B	Rural Zone - Residential Density
Plan Change 13	Industrial Zone - Height
Plan Change 14	Signs
Plan Change 15	Yards
Plan Change 16A	Transport Section Deletions
Plan Change 16B	Reference to NZS 4404
Plan Change 17	Utilities - Electricity Transmission
Plan Change 18A	Hazardous Substances Table
Plan Change 18B	Definitions

**AND THAT by way of public notice to be given on 21 August 2013, the plan changes be deemed operative on 27 August 2014.**

**2014/99**

**9. NEW COUNCIL DIGITAL NEWSLETTER (SC1008)**

A memo had been received from the Communications Coordinator advising that a new digital newsletter called ChinWag would be introduced to replace the noticeboard and Hokonui Herald. The cost would be \$18,040 per year with the first edition due on 22 August. It would appear every second month in a digital format, be complemented by a four-page colour hard copy edition with a 1,000 copy print run and BE available from distribution stands located at nine locations in Gore and Mataura.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the information be received.**

**2014/100**

**10. MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD REPORT**

A copy of the report of the Mataura Community Board meeting held on 7 July had been circulated.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dixon, seconded by Cr Gover, THAT the report of the meeting held on 7 July 2014 be received,**

**AND THAT the recommendations contained within the report be ratified.**

**2014/101**

11. SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT ON LAND TRANSPORT 2015/16-2024/25 (SC0756)

A memo had been received from the Roothing Manager together with a copy of the submission (listed on pages 57-59) in the agenda that had been sent to the Government on its policy statement on land transport 2015. The Manager advised an anomaly had been discovered in the Government's policy statement about bridge funding.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the submission dated 26 July 2014 be received,**

**AND THAT the Council ratify the submission made.**

**2015/102**

12. RURAL HALLS AND DOMAINS GRANT ALLOCATION

A copy of the minutes of the Rural Halls and Domains Sub-Committee meeting held on 28 July 2014 had been circulated.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Dixon, THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2014 be received.**

**2014/103**

13. SCHEDULE OF LANDUSE CONSENTS ISSUED

A schedule of landuse consents issued to 31 July had been circulated.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Beale, THAT the information be received.**

**2014/104**

14. ALCOHOL LICENSING FEES (SC0428)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive following consideration in November last year by the Regulatory and Planning Committee on new alcohol licensing fees that would be introduced as a result of the passing into law of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. A copy of the report that had been presented to the Committee and the recommendation that was subsequently endorsed by the full Council had been circulated.

His Worship the Mayor had received a letter from the Matura Licensing Trust expressing concern at the increase in fees being imposed by the Council. The new fee regime was risk based in the interests of a fee being aligned to reflect a high risk for alcohol related harm and the cost of monitoring compliance with licensed conditions. Any departure from the fees set would need to be effected via a specific bylaw.

In response to Cr Davis, the Chief Executive advised some of the fees charged were remitted to Wellington and the rest was retained. He was keen to review the cost structure of collecting the fees.

Cr Highsted noted the Matura Licensing Trust was looking for a quick response to alleviate its concerns. The Trust also needed to be reminded that the creation of a District Licensing Authority and the fees had not been caused by the Council.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the letter from the Matura Licensing Trust be received,**

**AND THAT the Council refer its concerns to the Regulatory and Planning Committee for further analysis.**

**2014/105**

**15. COUNCIL POLICY ON ELECTIONEERING SIGNS (SC0110/SC0949)**

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that the Council's current policy on electioneering signs provided for the payment of \$20 on the lodgment of any application for a permit to erect an electioneering sign. The current policy was unclear as to whether the fee was per sign or per application.

Cr Beale disagreed with political parties not having to pay a fee when other groups such as Gold Guitars and the Hokonui Fashion Awards had to pay. All applications required processing, regardless of who the applicants were.

The Chief Executive confirmed non-profit organisations paid \$5 per week for signs placed on the Council provided frames at the entrance to Gore. Organisations that made a profit were charged \$10 per week.

**Cr D Grant moved THAT the fee for charging for electoral signs remain at \$20 but there be no limit on the number of signs erected.**

**The motion was seconded by Cr Gover.**

**Cr Bolger moved as an amendment THAT the fee be \$20 per sign.**

**The amendment was seconded by Cr Davis.**

**The amendment was put and it was carried.**

**The amendment then became the motion, was put and it was carried.**

**2014/106**

16. GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY (SC0204)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a copy of the 2014 resident satisfaction survey. The results indicated a familiar trend in terms of the activities of the Council that scored highest with resident satisfaction and the priorities that the public wished with Council to concentrate on. In that regard roading, water and footpaths had again been nominated as the top three issues.

His Worship was concerned that fewer residents had landlines and unless people opted to complete the survey online, those who did not have a landline were not contacted. He said the Council would need to consider how to make contact with those people in the future.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the resident satisfaction survey for 2014 be received.**

**2014/107**

17 COMBINED GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL/ST JAMES THEATRE TRUST WORKING PARTY – FINAL REPORT (SC0332)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that a working party had been established by the Council last year comprising three representatives each from the Gore District Council and the St James Theatre Trust. The working party had been established to investigate the future of an interest free loan of \$250,000 advanced to the Trust for its fly tower redevelopment project in 2008. A copy of the final report of the working party which addressed the approved terms of reference had been circulated.

A copy of the financial position of the Trust as at 2 June 2014 was tabled at the meeting.

The working party had recommended that In recognition of the annual value to the community that the Trust's activities provided, that the Council write off the sum of \$15,000 per annum from the interest free loan for a maximum period of ten years.

The working party also recommended that provided the Trust continued to offer a comprehensive range of movies and live performances during the 10 year period, the Council (in recognition of on-going community benefit and that dialogue with the Trust on repayment ability never took place) forgive \$4.00 of debt for every \$1.00 of debt payments made by the Trust towards the outstanding loan balance.

Cr Bolger said the St James Theatre Trust had opportunity to repay the remaining \$100,000 of the loan at a 4:1 ratio if it was in a position to do so. It recognised the generosity of the ratepayers and if the Trust was in a position at some future date to return some of the funding, the option was there to do that.



Cr Gover said the Trust simply did not have the finances to repay the loan, especially given it had not asked for it in the first place. The theatre also was an important part of the community and if it folded, then it's ownership reverted to the Council.

His Worship saw the theatre as an important facility in the community. The question was how best to recognise the value of it. He had taken a lot of learning with how the loan was delivered to the Trust and felt the Council had erred in terms of consultation in not giving a direct answer to what was asked for but instead imposed a commitment. He acknowledged the effort that had gone in to get an acceptable solution for both sides. He had a concern that a liability of a loan resting with the St James Theatre Trust may impede it with requirements for future development and maintenance.

Cr D Grant said he was the Council representative on the Trust. The theatre was a huge asset to the community with one paid employee and a lot of volunteer input. He suggested the write off should be \$25,000 per annum so that the loan would be repaid within 10 years. There was a \$75,000 grant available from the Community Trust of Southland that could be uplifted to upgrade the front of house and then the small theatre.

**Cr D Grant moved THAT the report from the Gore District Council/St James Theatre Trust Working Party be received,**

**AND THAT in recognition of the annual value to the community that the Trust's activities provide, the Council write off the sum of \$25,000 per annum from the interest free loan so that the loan would be cleared in ten years.**

**The motion was seconded by Cr Davis.**

Cr Davis said the Council had never contributed a cent to the running of the theatre. It was operated almost entirely by volunteers. The Council happily granted \$17,000 to rural halls, nearly \$80,000 to the Gore A&P Association and \$53,000 to Venture Southland. The Council needed to make a contribution to the theatre and increase the annual write-off amount.

Cr Beale said the first priority of Councillors was to serve the ratepayers not other organisations. He said there was a degree of division in the community. The Council needed to have some credibility as did the Trust by making some contribution itself to repay a part of the loan.

Cr Dixon said whether the Trust had asked for a loan or a grant, it was given a loan. The Trust knew what it was getting and he agreed there had to be something paid back. It was not just the \$250,000, it was the interest on top of that amount which probably added another \$60,000. The theatre was a business. He could not vote in favour of wiping the entire loan.

Cr Sharp said the building could easily face earthquake strengthening and questioned how would that be paid for. He suggested paying \$15,000 for ten years and then review the balance after that time. However, Cr D Grant's suggestion was sweeter than his.

Cr Highsted recalled the debate when the Council considered the request for a grant. He had a young family and said the theatre was a great place they could go. It was part of arts and heritage in the district and the Council invested a lot of money in that. He had one question and that was the absence of the Gore Musical Theatre financial statements, however, he did not want proceedings to be held up pending receipt of those. But for completeness, the Council should have them.

Cr Bolger said the money advanced was an interest free loan. He did not believe the Trust had been disadvantaged by having an interest free loan. In fact it had probably saved around \$80,000 interest it did not have to pay. He asked those who were speaking against the recommendation why they had waited so long to speak about their opposition. The recommendation did not disadvantage the Council or the Trust. It gave both parties direction for the next ten years. He asked where the money came from. The Trust was a fantastic organisation. The money had been advanced by the Council from the ratepayers. There was no disadvantage in reviewing the loan after ten years.

His Worship acknowledged the points raised by Cr Bolger and the ratepayers deserved a return on investment, but how was that measured. He believed measuring it from a purely financial perspective came up short.

**The motion was put and it was carried.**

**2014/108**

His Worship thanked Crs Bolger and Gover for the work they had put into the Working Party. He said it was not the result they had been working towards, but the Council had recognised the value the facility provided to the community and would continue to do so for many years to come.

## 18. APPEAL AGAINST MENACING DOG CLASSIFICATION (SC0393)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive following recent publicity of an attack by a dog on a person that occurred on 27 July at the address of 32 Railway Esplanade, Gore. Following the consideration of written statements by witnesses and the victim, together with a report from the Council's dog control contractor, the Chief Executive made the decision to classify the dog as "menacing" under the Dog Control Act 1996.

A copy of a letter of complaint submitted by the mother of the victim that asked for a review of the decision to classify the dog as menacing had been circulated with the agenda. A copy of a letter from the owner of the dog objecting to the menacing classification had also been circulated. Given the objection and complaint received,

the Council would need to appoint a hearing panel to consider the issue in accordance with section 33(B) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

**Cr Davis moved THAT a sub-committee comprised of Cr Highsted as Chair, Cr P Grant and Cr Gover be formed, pursuant to section 33 (B) of the Dog Control Act 1996, to consider objections received to the proposed menacing classification of a Neapolitan Mastiff cross dog domiciled at 32 Railway Esplanade, Gore, as menacing,**

**AND THAT the sub-committee be given the delegated authority to make a determination on the objections, in accordance with section 33(B) of the Dog Control Act 1996.**

**The motion was seconded by Cr Page.**

Cr Sharp asked if the sub-committee had the power to put the dog down.

The Chief Executive advised it did not.

Cr Sharp said one of his staff had told him the dog had attacked four times.

The Chief Executive said the dog was not known to the Council.

Cr Sharp said it was going to get worse one day and it would be embarrassing for the Council.

His Worship asked what he wanted to be done.

Cr Sharp said put the dog down.

His Worship said the Council did not have the power to do so and he knew that.

Cr Gover suggested if the dog had attacked in the past then that needed to be reported to the Council.

**The motion was put and it was carried.**

**2014/109**

## 19. REPORT FROM COUNCILLORS

Reports from Crs Beale, P Grant, Gover, Davis, Byars, His Worship the Mayor, Page and D Grant had been circulated.

Cr Beale asked the Council to note an amendment to his report and said he had been unable to attend the AGM of the Gallery on 3 August due to illness.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Gover, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the reports be received.**

**2014/110**

The meeting concluded at 9pm.