

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Civic Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 23 June 2015, at 4.34pm.

Present	His Worship the Mayor (Tracy Hicks, JP), Crs Bolger, Beale (from 4.43pm), Byars, Davis, Dixon, D 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), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mrs Sarah Crooks), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones) and 26 members of the public in the gallery.
Apologies	Crs Gover and P Grant and the General Manager Community and Strategy (Dr Aaron Fox) apologised for absence.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 26 May 2015, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

2. DELIBERATION ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED TO THE 2015-25 LONG TERM PLAN (SC01160)

A report from the Chief Executive had been circulated with the agenda. The comments were provided from an operational perspective on submissions received to the consultation document as part of the proposed 2015-2025 draft Long Term Plan. The comments principally covered the topics put forward by submitters, with some brief commentary on individual submissions which had raised specific points or topics that were unrelated to the main themes running through the bulk of submissions.

His Worship expected debate around the table to be orderly and if it was not, he would invoke Standing Orders.

1. Proposed freezing of the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)

The proposal attracted the most submissions, almost all of which were opposed to freezing the UAGC at \$650 per annum for ten years. Major activities, such as 3 waters (funded exclusively from the urban rating sector), parks and reserves and solid waste (funded within the Gore and Matura areas or the kerbside recycling service) were funded by fixed targeted rates.

A comparison with other seven other Councils in the Otago/Southland region had been provided and showed that the Gore District had, by some margin the highest UAGC in the region.

In response to His Worship, Cr Sharp said freezing the UAGC would effectively double farmers and business rates. Depending on the value of a property, some may get a rate cut but he would not. Many submitters had asked to keep rates fair and there was a groundswell of support to keep the UAGC to 18%. It was not fair. The Roothing Manager had told him that he had enough money for roads, so where would the extra rates go. It won't be on roads. If 80-90% of Gore residents got a rates cut where would the money come from to pay for the water infrastructure list. It was a \$17 million wish list and very anti-Gore businesses who would have to pay. The only fair solution was for everybody to pay a little bit. No farmer he had spoken to believed the new tax from the UAGC would be used to help Gore.

Cr Beale attended the meeting at 4.43pm

He referred to comments in the Southland Times about a last minute change made by the Invercargill City Council to its draft LTP when it agreed to lift a farming differential to 30%. He questioned the reference from the Chief Executive in his report that Invercargill had no UAGC which was not correct.

The Chief Executive clarified it was correct and he understood there was just one rating area in Invercargill with no separation between urban and rural.

Cr Sharp said it was not the way he understood it. He thought Federated Farmers had worked hard to get it.

His Worship reiterated it was not a UAGC.

Cr Bolger said his understanding was that any alteration to the UAGC would not shift money to fund urban capital works. He had raised the issue before and had also explained it to Cr Sharp.

The Chief Executive said the freezing of the UAGC would mean it was not capped and would be used on a valuation basis. The ward rates used in the Gore District were quite unique and there was a level of orchestration. The suggestion that if the UAGC was lowered would be used to fund capital works was not the case. There was a funding policy. Most of the capital works were in the urban area and would be

funded by the urban area. The only exception was the arts and heritage precinct and the administration building if they proceeded. They would be funded across the district.

Cr Bolger said it concerned him that a fellow Councillor had put out a flier misinforming rural ratepayers they would be responsible for funding urban capital works. He was concerned that Cr Sharp had misled people.

Cr Sharp disagreed and said the people in the gallery also did not agree.

Cr Bolger was concerned they had been misled and they had been misled by Cr Sharp.

Cr Beale referred to a "black Friday" 13 years earlier when the Council got to a town versus rural situation. Farmers had lobbied strongly for the UAGC to go to 30% which the Council agreed to. There were people concerned that it had got out of kilter and people in the urban area were paying a large portion of their rating bills by UAGC. He was not sure that landlords would pass on any reduction if the UAGC was frozen. He was also aware of the number of people who were eligible for a rates rebate. He was aware that farmers were struggling at the moment but so were businesses and they relied on each other. He would prefer for the status quo to remain.

Cr Sharp said the UAGC was set at 30% and then it was lowered to 29%. Why was that? It was lowered by 1% to help Gore pay for recycling.

Cr Bolger said money did not go from the UAGC to pay for recycling.

His Worship said the debate was about getting a fair and even balance. Cr Sharp made a comment earlier to keep the rates fair and made an assumption that currently it was fair. He suggested it may not be quite right because of the heavy reliance in the system for fixed rates. He thought Gore was probably one of the highest fixed rated Councils in the country which worked against lower valued properties. He acknowledged businesses and farmers were struggling at the moment. It was not about trying to penalise one and give favour to the other. It was about trying to achieve something that was fair and equitable for everyone. A comparison of the percentages of fixed targeted rates charged by other Councils listed in the report was circulated at the meeting. It was not entirely about the UAGC; it was how the total fixed rates charges were spread. He agreed with Cr Bolger's comments that the information circulated by Cr Sharp was disappointing. He knew better than that. He had said any thought an increase in UAGC was to pay for capital projects in Gore was not correct.

Cr Sharp said the Council was told the UAGC was lowered to pay for recycling.

Cr Bolger said he was wrong. Recycling was a fixed targeted rate. If someone did not have wheelie bins, they did not pay. It was nothing to do with the UAGC. Cr

Sharp's assumption that the UAGC was lowered to transfer money to Gore urban was incorrect.

Cr Davis said the Council had considered this issue at a number of workshops, and one of the reasons it was brought forward was the number of ratepayers who were elderly and on a fixed income. Many of them owned their own home and found it difficult to pay their rates. That was a reason the Council went down the path of reviewing the UAGC. The Council tried to target its costs where they fell. It was trying to be flexible and help people who were suffering.

Cr Bolger said the UAGC had to be put into some historical context. He thought putting it at 30% 13 years ago was a good move, but no-one was managing their finances now as they were 13 years ago. Over time, fixed targeted rates had been introduced. For urban people there were fixed targeted rates for recycling and the reduction in UAGC had not matched the increase in fixed targeted charges. People had wanted more user pay charges. Comparing rural ratepayers in the Gore District with the Southland and Clutha Districts would result in them being better off. The UAGC was just one tool. He believed the most moderate and sensible way to make an adjustment to the UAGC was to freeze it. He was not comfortable with lowering it to 18%. It was currently at 27%. He proposed a compromise that the UAGC not drop below 25% and that would recognise the rural submitters and go part-way to making an adjustment for those people who were struggling with their rates. The other people to consider were the commercial ratepayers. He thought that was a balanced approach.

Cr Bolger moved THAT the UAGC be fixed at \$650, but be adjusted in future in order that it does not drop below 25% as a percentage of rates.

The motion was seconded by Cr D Grant.

Cr D Grant said as a commercial ratepayer, he did not want to see a rural-urban split. Some of the comments in Cr Sharp's flier were simply not correct. Some of the submissions made were very good. The suggestion from John Gardyne to impose a \$100 charge on ratepayers was a good one, but when the impact was realised, it may need to wait.

Cr Dixon said he had been one of the main instigators to have capital value rating a couple of years ago. When it comes to freezing the UAGC he thought it was good, but it may be a little too much. He would be happy for it not to drop below 25% and thought it was a fair compromise and recognised the work put in by submitters.

Cr Byars supported communication between ratepayers and the Council. The Council had put out a proposal and it had a clear mandate that the ratepayers were not happy with a UAGC at 18%. She would not personally like it to change at all, but was comfortable for it not to drop below 25%.

Cr Bolger thought if the UAGC was held at its current dollar value, it would take about three years to reach a 25% level.

In response to Cr Beale, Cr Bolger clarified the UAGC would remain at the current dollar value of \$650. He added the Council also needed to remember urban and commercial ratepayers.

Cr Davis said once the deliberations were complete and the LTP was finalised, there was a mandatory review period of three years.

Cr Page said rates were a taxation and because it was a taxation it raised the question of fairness. He thought Cr Bolger's motion addressed fairness. He was conscious that commercial ratepayers had not been vocal during the submission process. The Council did not need a rift between the urban and rural areas and the Council also needed to support the rural sector and the town was here for it. The Council had to try and encourage people to come and live in the district and the rural people needed that so decent schools, healthcare and other services could be provided.

His Worship congratulated the rural community for the interest it took in rating and many people in the rural community understood how the rating system worked.

Cr Sharp moved as an amendment THAT the UAGC be retained at the status quo of 27% of rates,

AND THAT it be removed from the Long Term Plan.

The amendment was seconded by Cr Byars.

His Worship advised it could not be removed from the LTP; it had to be included.

The amendment was put and it was lost.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2015/42

Mr Hugh Gardyne called a point of order. The Council could not have a 25% UAGC.

His Worship said Mr Gardyne could not call a point of order as he was not part of the Council. He would not acknowledge it.

Mr Gardyne asked if the Council was going to cap the rates.

2. Mataura recreational facilities

His Worship was disappointed at the lack of alternative suggestions put forward by submitters on how to improve usage at the Mataura pool.

Cr Sharp had been scuba diving for 28 years and knew what it was like to come close to drowning. He thought the pool should be kept open and would hate to be responsible for someone drowning.

Cr Sharp moved THAT the Mataura pool remain open,

AND THAT the people of Mataura be given a chance to operate the pool through a trust or committee.

He said if the pool could not be run via a trust, then it wouldn't fall on him if it did not work.

Cr Davis said there was no-one during submissions who said they wanted the community to run the pool. She asked for clarification.

Cr D Grant said there were some good submissions made about the Mataura pool. There was a comment made at the hearing by Mr Pringle who had said he would be happy to help run it. It was a Council owned facility so if it gave a group of people the money to run it, was the Council setting them up to fail? The aquatic staff had bent over backwards to run the pool. If it was run by volunteers from the community, what happened if there was a drowning? The onus would fall back on the Council.

Cr Sharp thought if it was leased to a trust then it would be the responsibility of the trust to man it and keep it operational.

His Worship asked if there was support from the Councillors to retain the pool.

The motion was seconded by Cr Dixon.

Cr Dixon said if it wasn't for rural and Mataura people, Gore would not have much. There was wealth generated by businesses in Mataura including about \$18.8 million still paid in wages from the Alliance Group. He said Mataura had Clematis Cottage run by volunteers, a library on reduced hours and a pool which may or may not be closing, but on reduced hours. There was a proposal to build a super sports hub in Gore. Whatever replaced the pool in Mataura it would have to be pretty good. He referred to the capital expenditure that may have to be spent on the pool which amounted to \$21,000 a year for 10 years. There was no reference to the \$630,000 for general maintenance on the Gore pool or \$800,000 for capital works. This issue had attracted 136 submissions and 22 agreed to the pool closing. Of the 22, two had changed their mind after the hearing. He asked if the Council intended to take note of the submissions made about the pool.

Cr Bolger found the issue difficult. The pool was an old facility and had a limited life. It might have three or five years. He did not think he could support the motion because there was no end point and the pool would not last forever. Having said

that, it was a great pool but he wished people would use it. The thought of closing it tomorrow was not palatable. It was something to work through.

Cr Davis agreed and said there was nothing budgeted to be spent on the pool in the next 10 years or so. The capital expenditure required was going to climb and it had a limited life, particularly around the storage of chemicals. Was it being fair to the people of Maitua to keep the pool open with a limited life? Perhaps the Council was just prolonging the inevitable.

Cr Beale said sooner or later the Council had to face that having two pools within 10 minutes of each other was simply not financially viable. The population base was not there. If the Council set a time limit to perhaps close it, it may instigate some ideas about increasing the patronage.

The motion was put and it was lost.

Cr Davis asked if there was any indication of when major maintenance may be required at the pool.

The 3 Waters Asset Manager advised the main issue with the pool was non-compliance with the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) and the site was not meeting the requirements of the Act. Storage of chemicals was not compliant. Some minor improvements had been made over the past two years but it had been unsatisfactory particularly with chlorine storage. There was a lack of shower facilities if there was a chemical incident. It would be capital expenditure to rectify and she suggested if the Council was going to keep the pool open for a number of years, then work was required to bring the site up to a safe standard. It was the most unsafe site the Council had. The estimated cost was \$15,000. The boiler-hopper renewal detailed was estimated to cost \$11,500 and it would need to be undertaken if the pool was to remain open long term. There could be repairs made in the interim as the hopper was not performing as it should and the auger needed a major overhaul.

Cr Davis asked about compliance with the HSNO certification. Would an extension be granted?

The Manager said the Council needed to explain what work would be done when the site inspection was undertaken.

Cr D Grant asked if it was more of an upgrade for chlorine security to meet the HSNO standards.

The Manager said there were higher standards required as a result of the new Act and how chemicals were handled and stored. It was more around having equipment that would satisfy the requirements of the Act for staff when working with chlorine and also to protect the public. There would be a gas detection system installed and alarms. It would also be relocated away from its current site.

Cr Davis said with the relationship the Council had with the HSNO inspector, would an extension for say a year be likely to be granted.

The Manager advised it would have to be discussed with the certifier. The Council had been delaying undertaking the work for some years now, but it may get a year's grace.

Cr Sharp recalled a lot of money had been spent on the pool about six years ago, including a new boiler. He asked if the chemical storage area had not been relocated then.

The Manager was not sure as she was not employed by the Council at the time, but regulations had changed over time and the current storage situation was not compliant with the HSNO Act.

Cr Dixon said there had not been any engineer's report done on the building. He said what was being referred to was surmising. He asked what the numbers would be to keep the Matura pool open.

Cr Highsted reminded the Council had already resolved that the status quo for the pool could not remain. The Council was committed to providing an alternative option and he suggested it was time to consider that along with enabling students from the Matura school to learn to swim. He suggested two years with the final season being the 2016-17 year.

Cr Page said the main points raised in the submissions received were about education and teaching children to swim. He thought the Council could support the school by helping with transport.

Cr Dixon asked if the pool closed, how much funding would go towards creating something different for Matura.

His Worship said the intent of the Council was for a similar level of funding that went into operating the pool to continue to allow whatever the new alternative option was to be put in place. The idea of the consultation document had been to generate ideas from the Matura community but that had not eventuated. The funding was about \$500,000.

Cr Davis supported Cr Highsted's comments and thought Matura would benefit from \$500,000 towards something that would be used by the community. The young people were not using the pool. It was a difficult decision because it was unfair on the Matura people, but it had to be made.

Cr Highsted said the suggestion that a community organisation be set up to run the pool was not a wise use of ratepayer money in his view.

Cr D Grant thought a two year stay could work but if patronage spiralled through the roof, then the Council needed to review its decision. He said Cr Dixon had raised a good point about what the patronage had to be to keep the pool open. If the numbers increased, why not look at keeping it open.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the Maitauna pool close at the end of the 2016-17 swimming season.

2015/43

Cr Dixon moved THAT if the pool closed after the 2016/17 season, the money that had been used to operate the pool be applied to a recreational facility in Maitauna for a period of eight years.

Cr Davis clarified what the figure may be. Was it more than \$500,000?

His Worship said it was probably about \$800,000.

Cr Davis recalled the Council discussing any money that had been spent over and above \$500,000 would be used towards debt reduction.

The motion was seconded by Cr Bolger.

In response to Cr Highsted, His Worship said the alternative was for a recreational facility in Maitauna.

Cr Beale preferred to keep the financial commitment to \$500,000.

Cr Davis moved as an amendment THAT \$500,000 be ring fenced for the Maitauna community to use on a recreational facility.

The amendment was seconded by Cr Highsted.

Cr Highsted reminded the Council there would also be a maintenance cost on any future facility established.

The amendment was put and it was carried.

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

2015/44

Cr D Grant asked if there was an extraordinary and sustained increase in patronage at the Maitauna pool should there be an opportunity to reconsider the decision to close the pool?

Cr Highsted questioned how that could work and said it went against the principle that the facility was not affordable for the District to retain. The intent was

honourable, but he did not think it would serve the community well. It brought uncertainty to the whole issue again.

Cr Davis agreed and said if the Mataura community was working on what it wanted with the money from the pool the last thing it needed was to get down the planning process only to be told no. The comments from Cr Highsted were valid. The Council wanted to be fair and for the community to have something that was modern and future-proofed.

His Worship said he had spent a lot of time raising money for the Mataura pool in the 1980s but recognised it had a finite life. There were many changes that had occurred since then.

Cr Sharp moved THAT in the event of an unprecedented event - an increase in patronage - that the pool remain open.

The motion was seconded by Cr Dixon.

Cr Dixon acknowledged that in time, the pool would need to close, but until then, it should be kept open. The pool was open for 1,200 hours a year and was used by 9,000 people. The population was about 1,300 and the pool had seven users an hour. Gore put through 19 an hour.

The motion was put and it was lost.

Cr Bolger asked in the event the pool closed whether the Council should consider providing a grant to enable the Mataura school students to have swimming lessons in Gore.

Cr Page would like to have other schools included that may have used Mataura pool.

Cr Bolger moved THAT when the pool closed, the Council make a grant available to the Mataura school to off-set additional transportation costs incurred as a result of its students having swimming lessons at the Gore pool.

The motion was seconded by Cr Davis.

Cr Dixon moved as amendment THAT a grant be also made available to Te Tipua and Hedgehope schools.

The amendment was seconded by Cr Sharp.

Cr D Grant asked if the Hedgehope school was within the Gore District.

His Worship advised it was not.

Cr Highsted expected those two schools would bus their children to a pool anyway.

The amendment was put and it was lost.

Cr Davis said there was nothing to stop the other two schools writing to the Council in two year's time asking for a grant to assist with transport to the Gore pool.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2015/45

3. Manganese and iron oxide removal

Cr Davis moved THAT the project to remove manganese and iron oxides from the Gore urban water supply be approved, and retained in the draft LTP.

The motion was seconded by Cr Beale.

In response to Cr D Grant, the General Manager District Assets advised the Council minimised the use of the Jacobstown well as a result of the manganese and iron oxide content in the water.

The motion was put and was carried.

2015/46

4. Heritage

Cr Dixon said the proposal was a wish list item. He said 3.4% of the Council's major expenditure was still a lot. Half a million dollars would not be the end of it. It would be a burden on the ratepayer with no real benefit that he could see going to them. He said the Council had never seen numbers that visited the John Money Wing. He was happy to review it in three year's time.

Cr Beale said timing was always an issue with something like arts and heritage, but to keep it in perspective, the John Money Wing which was a world class asset, was built at no cost to the ratepayer. The \$1.2 million was raised through the Eastern Southland Gallery. The capital proposed was like a seeding fund to enable grants from other funders to be applied for.

Cr Davis said the project had been in the LTP for a long time and it had kept getting pushed back. Jim Geddes had built a great asset at very little cost to the community. He had a reputation for getting funding from a range of sources. Her understanding was the project was redevelopment, and did not include extra staff etc.

The Chief Executive agreed and said it was an infrastructure project, making use of the building at 28 Irwell Street and making the precinct a true precinct. Presently, it was an amalgam of many things, including a car park for the library. A concept plan would be developed.

Cr Davis said potentially the money could be spent over two financial years.

Cr Highsted said the project that had been included in the consultation document was contingent on getting funding from external sources. He agreed with Cr Beale that timing was not perfect, but these days, projects could not be progressed without some money to start with.

Cr Highsted moved THAT the heritage precinct redevelopment project be approved, and retained in the draft LTP.

The motion was seconded by Cr Davis.

Cr Sharp said Jim Geddes' empire was growing and he had trouble with it. It would be money borrowed for a luxury.

His Worship said it was not Jim's empire.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2015/47

Heritage preservation fund

Cr Davis believed the issue lay with the building owner and it was not for the Council to invest ratepayer money in protecting buildings.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the creation of a heritage preservation fund be deleted from the draft Long Term Plan.

2015/48

5. Capital works programme

Cr Bolger said the Council had no choice. The Auditor General had a certain control over the Council's compliance with drinking water standards. The Auditor General was also more concerned with local authorities upgrading their infrastructure than it was with rates.

Cr Davis understood there had been some Government work about the drinking water standards and asked if the outcome may impact on the proposed capital works programme.

The General Manager said what had happened with 3 waters nationally was a survey had been undertaken and opinions were still being formed. Where the whole process would go was still a fairly big unknown at this stage.

His Worship added the work was ascertaining the national state of the asset following concern expressed by Treasury and the network. When looked at closely, it found it was varying considerably up and down the country. The report was focusing on bringing the state of the asset into one place and what the future challenges may be. One way or the other, the asset would have to be upgraded.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the proposed capital works programme be approved, and retained in the draft LTP.

2015/49

6. Management of depreciation funds

Cr Bolger said it was a fact that when the financial performance of the Gore District was compared with any other Council in the country, it was near the top of the bunch. It was a lean machine. Unless the depreciation funding was used, the Council would have higher debt and rates. He approved the way it had been used.

7. Staff numbers

Cr Davis thought it was interesting that the data from neighbouring Councils was not available. It was frustrating that the allegation of increasing staff numbers was thrown at the Council and yet it was not able to be able to compare with others. Was there any way the Council could obtain that information?

The Chief Executive said a request had been made some time ago to several Councils asking for staff and rates increases going back about 20 years. In return, he had received information about rates increases but not the staff increases.

Cr Davis asked if there was any way of having it on a future agenda as the issue was often referred to at annual plan time and there was no data provided to put it into context. She thought it would be good for the Council to understand it.

Cr Beale asked if the Council had 25% more vehicles now than it had ten years ago. A lot of people seemed to think there were more.

His Worship said it was not the place to raise questions about vehicles as no-one had the information at hand.

Cr Sharp said steadily rising staff numbers really bothered him. In 2001 the road contracting gang was let go. Was it then or before then?

The Chief Executive said it was 1995.

Cr Sharp said he had trouble with it. He had kept a record of who the extra employees were and had got to 13.

His Worship said the roles and functions of Council staff had changed dramatically over time.

Cr Highsted said staff numbers alone were irrelevant and there were a number of consultants and roles that had been disestablished and re-created during that time. If staff numbers had increased by only six in 14 years in the environment the Council operated in, the Chief Executive needed to be congratulated with keeping the numbers so tight, not criticised.

His Worship said people seemed to be fixated with staff numbers, when the real issue at point was the cost of the operation per rating unit and this Council operated 8th lowest in the country out of 73 Councils. He thought Gore punched well above its weight.

Cr Highsted said the Council was going into a period of significant capital expenditure and investment in people was crucial otherwise there would be financial crises and mistakes made.

Cr Page said the pressure coming onto Councils particularly from Wellington was significant and there was added cost.

His Worship said some examples that had resulted in increased costs to the Council were the psychoactive substances issue, liquor licensing changes and building.

Cr Byars said a comparison of staff numbers across the board never included consultants which made a huge difference to the workforce. Also the cost of compliance and levels of service offered varied.

Cr Bolger said bigger was not always better. It looked like this Council was extremely efficient and he had noted workload for staff and Councillors had gone through the roof. The calibre of staff in Gore was absolutely impressive and a good news story. It was extremely frustrating to him that people, particularly rural people, did not realise the effort put in and results being achieved.

8. Derelict building fund

His Worship said the issue had been driven by Mataura, but it was not just relevant in Mataura. There were other hot spot areas.

Cr Highsted supported the concept, but was not in favour of buying any property that may have a derelict building on it. He was happy with a fund to enable the Council to take action against owners who did not comply or to assist with demolition.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT up to \$20,000 be made available to assist with the management of derelict buildings,

AND NOTE THAT these funds will not be used to purchase land on which the derelict buildings are sited.

2015/50

9. Rural roading

Cr Byars was in favour of a gravel trial, but it should not be limited to Clutha gravel. It came down to expectation versus fit for purpose and there were some rural ratepayers that may expect a better service.

The Roading Manager said the one network classification imposed national standards on roading networks. If the Council looked to have a higher standard that was allowed for under the one network classification, there was a possibility that the Council may need to pay the difference locally between the fit for purpose standard and the higher level of service requested.

His Worship added there was a possibility that the classifications may reduce as a result of the one classification rating.

The Council agreed to undertake a trial of different gravels on select rural roads with a report to a meeting of the Operations Committee being prepared to develop the scope and term of the trial.

Submission 2015/1 – Physicians and Scientists for Global Responsibility – received and noted.

Submission 2015/10 – McGuinness Institute – received and noted.

Submission 2015/25 Southern District Health Board – received and request to support the employment of a coordinator for the Southland Safe Community Group be declined.

Submission 2015/34 – Wendy Joy Baker – received and noted.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT signage for dog control be placed within Bannerman Park and the Ardwick Street reserve, opposite Gore Main School.

2015/51

Submission 2015/45 – NZAA Southland – received and noted.

Submission 2015/46 – CCS Disability Action – received and noted.

Submission 2015/48 – Safe Communities Southland – received and noted.

Submission 2015/54 – Murray Fortune

The Council requested a report providing further information to enable a review to be undertaken of reserve and financial contributions in respect of infrastructure payable on the creation of new residential allotments.

Submission 2015/85 – John Gardyne

Cr Davis said the idea had merit but had not been consulted on. It would have a wide ranging impact on ratepayers and she would like a report to be forthcoming for direction for the future.

Cr Dixon agreed and thought a phasing in period would be ideal.

Cr Sharp agreed with say \$33 each year for three years, but not to increase the rates to do so.

Cr Bolger acknowledged Mr Gardyne for his innovative thinking, but he could not embrace it at all. The Council had low debt and debt would grow but capital expenditure was the reason. It was fundamentally unfair. Why should someone who was retired be contributing to paying off debt on infrastructure that would last for 60 plus years. Inter-generational debt was a term used by the Auditor General to encourage Councils to spread debt over a longer period of time. There was currently a low interest rate period where the Council could concentrate on making ground with taking loans over as long a period as realistically possible. He fundamentally opposed taking urban debt and placing it over rural ratepayers.

Cr Highsted agreed and said this proposal and the UAGC in terms of helping those in hardship would work against them.

Cr Sharp said the Council's debt had been sneaking up. Mr Gardyne's idea was brilliant.

Cr Highsted said the proposal was to increase rates by \$100 on every rating unit and Cr Sharp was saying rates could not increase.

Cr Sharp was not saying that. He was saying \$33 a year for three years.

Cr Bolger applauded Mr Gardyne for having the courage in bringing it forward.

The Chief Executive said there was quite a bit of corporate debt that was serviced district wide.

Cr Sharp moved THAT a report on the proposal be provided for consideration by the Council.

The motion was seconded by Cr Dixon, was put and was lost.

2015/52

Submission 2015/94 – Sport Southland – received and noted.

Submission 2015/106 – Todd Barclay

His Worship thought it was important for the Council to be involved in a coordinating role to ensure there was consistency for proposed cycle-walkways.

In response to Cr Davis, the Chief Executive said the \$8,000 that had been approved some years ago had gone back into the general fund as it was not uplifted.

Cr Davis thought the Council was well placed to assist with coordinating the proposed trails but was not in favour making a grant of \$21,000.

His Worship said there was momentum for the trails and perhaps there should be an effort to consolidate a group to ensure consistency and avoid duplication.

He suggested a report be forthcoming for consideration on the membership of a group and who should be part of it from within and outside of the Council.

Cr Davis said there needed to be clear information about the maintenance requirements as well. The Council needed to be aware of what other funding requests may be likely in the future.

Cr Highsted said the submission from John Wilson indicated the Hokonui Trust had not involved a consultant which was part of its success and it was able to make best use of the funds available.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Page, THAT a report be provided on the proposed cycle-walkways in the Gore District,

AND THAT a grant of \$10,000 be made available to a local coordination group once it has been established.

2015/53

Submission 2015/130 – Rebecca Moody – received and noted.

Submission 2015/170 – John Wilson – received and noted.

Submission 2015/214 – Reo Lewis – request declined.

His Worship said the process following the meeting would be that the Long Term Plan would be presented for final adoption, including the changes made at the meeting, at another extraordinary Council meeting to be held following the Committee meetings on 30 June.

3. AEROMAGNETIC GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF SOUTHLAND (SC1077)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a report from Venture Southland seeking the Council's participation in an aeromagnetic geological survey of Southland. The proposal followed an announcement from the Government that it was prepared to invest \$8 million to acquire and analyse new aeromagnetic data, \$6 million of which was set aside for data pertaining to Southland, Otago and Marlborough.

The survey had the ability to identify sub-surface geological structures, seismic faults, geological hazards, mineral and petroleum potential and the location of water resources. The proposal being funded by central Government covered some of the

Gore District and Venture Southland was mooting that the southern portion of the province including the southern end of the Gore District be also included. For that to occur, additional investment of \$343,000 was required and based on the agreed funding formula, would involve a contribution of \$44,247 from the Gore District.

Cr Bolger felt the survey would be well worthwhile being involved with.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the Council agree to participate in the aeromagnetic geological survey of Southland,

AND THAT the Council note that its contribution will be \$44,247 with this amount being deficit-funded in the 2015/16 financial year with a view to the expense being ultimately funded by an appropriate provision being made in the 2016/17 Council budget.

2015/54

The meeting concluded at 7.19pm