

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 3 APRIL 2012, AT 7.30 PM.

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

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Assets Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Communications Co-ordinator (Mrs Sonia Gerken), Community Development Officer (Mrs Jacqui Green), Youth Councillors (Luke Dolamore and Thomas Cairncross), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan) and five members of the public in the gallery.

APOLOGIES Crs Beale and Redhead apologised for absence.

Cr Grant declared a conflict in item 17 of the Council agenda.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Gover, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 21 February 2012, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Dixon, THAT the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 13 March 2012, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr Gover, **THAT** the Report of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee, held on Tuesday 13 March 2012, as presented, be accepted as an accurate and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Watt, seconded by Cr Davis, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the Community Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13 March 2012, as presented, be ratified.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Highsted, **THAT** the Report of the Meeting of the Operations Committee, held on Tuesday 13 March 2012, as presented, be accepted as an accurate and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr Gover, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the Operations Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13 March 2012 as presented, be ratified.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Grant, **THAT** the Report of the Meeting of the Regulatory and Planning Committee, held on Tuesday 13 March 2012, as presented, be accepted as an accurate and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Dixon, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the Regulatory and Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13 March 2012, as presented, be ratified.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Gover, **THAT** the Report of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on Tuesday 13 March 2012, as presented, be accepted as an accurate and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Davis, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13 March 2012, as presented, be ratified.

2. SHARED SERVICES FORUM NOTES (46.34.2)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a copy of confirmed notes of the Shared Services Forum held on 30 September 2011.

The Chief Executive said rather than waiting for the Southland Shared Services Forum to confirm its own minutes, they would be

sent to the councils in draft form in order that everyone could be kept up to date. Any changes resulting from confirmation of the minutes would be advised.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Watt, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the notes of the meeting of the Shared Services Forum, held on 30 September, be received.

2012/27

3. SHARED SERVICES FORUM NOTES (46.34.2)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a copy of confirmed notes of the Shared Services Forum held on 19 December 2011.

Cr Davis asked if the Our Way Southland project would be looked at to see if it was still required.

His Worship said there had been discussion around that some eighteen months ago and at that stage there had been a desire to continue with it. Progress had been good. It needed to wait and see what the legislation looked like, once it had been passed. It appeared the wellbeing had been replaced with public service. It was a bit of a grey area.

The Chief Executive said due to the law change last year, the whole community outcomes were optional.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the notes of the meeting of the Shared Services Forum, held on 19 December, be received.

2012/28

4. MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD REPORT (46.36.2)

A copy of the report of the ordinary meeting of the Mataura Community Board, held on 5 March had been circulated.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dixon, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the report of the meeting held on 5 March be received,

AND THAT the recommendations contained within the report be ratified.

2012/29

5. CREATIVE COMMUNITIES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (18.45.3)

A copy of the minutes from the Creative Communities Assessment Committee meeting held on 22 March had been circulated for the Council's information.

In response to His Worship, the Parks and Recreation Manager advised Creative New Zealand provided funding from central government each year for the Gore District. There was however an area of interest that did sometimes reach outside of the Gore district, such as the Riversdale Arts application.

Cr Davis said it had been a contentious issue at the Creative Communities meeting.

Cr Gover wondered if the Riversdale Arts Group would apply to the Southland District for funding from Creative Communities, as well.

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

2012/30

6. SPORT NZ RURAL TRAVEL FUND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (18.81.1)

A copy of the minutes from the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Committee meeting held on 26 March had been circulated for the Council's information.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Watt, THAT the information be received.

2012/31

7. DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN (46.35.3)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive, together with a draft 2012-22 Long Term Plan (LTP). The draft LTP had been analysed in depth by the Council's own auditors and then "hot reviewed" in Wellington by the office of the Auditor General. Feedback received had been positive with only some minor amendments sought. It was now ready to be approved for public notification.

His Worship said the draft LTP Summary indicated areas the Council needed to focus on as a community and had put it in a good light.

The Chief Executive said the auditors were happy with the draft LTP and had suggested only a couple of minor amendments. There had been a lot of input from staff. It had been a challenging landscape in terms of the timeline.

The Corporate Services Manager said the two minor amendments were cosmetic changes to break revenue down.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the Council approve the public notification of the draft Long Term Plan, pursuant to Section 84 of the Local Government Act, 2002.

2012/32

8. REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM (51.5.2)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive, together with a copy of a paper profiling the changes proposed to the Local Government Act 2002.

His Worship said a lot of water had gone under the bridge since the meeting that the Chief Executive had attended. There were still two briefings to be given by the new Local Government Minister, Hon David Carter.

The Chief Executive said due to the way the Council had conducted itself over the past few years, it did not need to have any real fears about its performance. It was disappointing that the former minister came out of the blocks turbo charged and not really having thought through all the issues. The Government had distributed a document littered with errors and clearly wrongly stated statistics. It then had councils still waiting 10 days later for corrections, which was poor. Despite that, the overall direction the Government wanted to take, held no real concerns. It had focused on a few extreme events and looked at reforms across the whole sector. If the law had allowed the Government to be involved earlier, perhaps some problems faced by communities might not have become so big. A bit more time from the Government to be more refined about what it wanted to achieve and making sure it achieved that end without creating new problems would be good advice the sector could give local government.

In response to Cr Watt asking what other Councils reactions were to the impositions, the Chief Executive said those that had attended the briefing had felt more relaxed after the briefing. The former minister had made it clear that he did not want to knock out local initiatives and impact on good relationships between councils and local government. He thought the general sense of

unease had dropped. Until the draft legislation was available to see what the Government was intending and how it would impact on our district it is hard to predetermine. His personal view was to wait and see what the reforms brought about. It would probably not be as extreme as first thought.

His Worship said the feeling he had picked up from a number of councils was that people were annoyed that the Government had put all councils in a box and said they were all the same. To be tarred with the same brush as other councils that had done a particularly bad job rankled because not all councils had done a bad job.

Cr Watt said inaccuracies aside, which were not acceptable, he wondered if there would be merit in the Council supporting the paper and the general thrust of it. He thought the paper looked very positive. The alternative would be to say and do nothing and allow those that had not run things properly to moan about it and object to it.

His Worship said he would be hesitant to provide full scale support for the paper. Something that concerned him was the refocusing on the purpose of the local government. The Council was there to encourage and develop the community capacity to grow in the Gore district. That covered a multitude of things, however the focus of the Government appeared to have a very narrow vision where Councils could be involved which could be to the detriment of local communities and the nation. He would have difficulty in supporting that. There were some good things in the paper. That had been the general feeling from Local Government New Zealand also. With some qualifications, it would work with the Government. The new minister wanted to engage and some good results would come from that.

Cr Bolger was disappointed that Nick Smith could not accept the Council's invitation to come and chat. The Hon Rodney Hyde had been impressed by the Council's benchmarking which showed the Council was at least efficient compared to others.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Watt, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the report be received.

2012/33

9. SOUTHLAND WARM HOMES TRUST – ANNUAL REPORT (50.40.3)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive, together with a copy of a letter received from the Southland Warm Homes Trust

detailing the number of homes in the Gore District that received service from the Trust.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the letter be received and the statistics pertaining to the Gore District be noted.

2012/34

10. GORE DANCESPORT SUPPORTERS GROUP – REQUEST FOR FUNDING (1.78)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive, together with a copy of a letter received from the Gore Dancesport Supporters Group seeking funding assistance of \$1,800 to assist with the running of the 2012 Southland Festival of Dance to be held in Gore on 28 April.

Cr Grant wondered why the Group had not applied to Creative NZ.

In response to Cr Highsted, His Worship said a report on the Groups previous grant had not been received, however the Council could request one if required.

Cr Davis thought it could be worth suggesting that the Group submit to the Long Term Plan (LTP) process.

The Chief Executive confirmed the event would be held on 28 April.

Cr Sharp was against the request. He did not think the group should be funded by ratepayers.

Cr Gover said she would be in favour of supporting the group. The Council gave money to other groups such as the Swede Fest and New Zealand Music and Songwriters Awards. The competition brought a number of people to the area.

His Worship said he liked the idea of suggesting the request be referred to the LTP. That way the group's request would stack up against other groups.

In response to Cr Dixon, His Worship said if the Council were to support the group, it would be in retrospect.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the Council suggest to the Gore Dancesport Supporters Group that it submit its letter to the Long Term Plan as a submission,

THAT a financial report from the previous year's event be included with the submission,

AND THAT the Council suggest to the Gore Dancesport Supporters Group that it consider applying to the local Creative Communities Scheme's next funding round.

2012/34

11. ELECTED MEMBER REMUNERATION (46.18.2)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive, together with a copy of a letter received from the Remuneration Authority seeking out its indicative pool from which remuneration for elected members would be drawn for the financial year commencing 1 July 2012.

The Chief Executive said he had used the time honoured process of adjusting any increase proportionally across the various positions. The percentage differences in the various positions were brought into existence in 2003. He had continued that tradition. It was up to the Council to amend or accept that as it saw fit.

Cr Watt said he was opposed to this. He had previously indicated that he was not happy with the prepping paid to the committee chairs and it had been bugging him for quite some time. He had investigated 32 other Councils and distributed a list of those Councils and what they paid as a premium. One third paid no premium. On average they paid 13.35% premium. The Gore District Council paid 81.32% premium. He saw that out of whack and some anomalies that could result from that. He could elaborate but it might be better that he did not. The numbers should speak for themselves.

His Worship asked Cr Watt to outline what he considered the role of a chair to be.

Cr Watt said a chairman's role was to chair various committees and undertake the additional work that was involved in chairing those committees. He said that was not his issue. It was not the additional work load, it was what other councils did in comparison to the Gore District Council and the anomalies that could result.

His Worship said Cr Watt raised an issue that had previously been canvassed. There had been a will at that point to remain with the status quo which went right back to beginning of council. That was not to say whether it was right or wrong. His expectation and reality of what happened was that there was quite a lot more time commitment and responsibility required from chairs than from

Councillors. For that there needed to be some recognition. How much recognition was up to the Council? Each Council had made a subjective assessment and had gone with what they thought was the right answer. He knew the commitment time wise and energy wise and in terms of responsibility from chairs he had worked with in his time as Mayor had been exceptional. In his mind it was not out of whack. However, it was a decision for the Council to make.

Cr Davis noted from the letter received from the Remuneration Authority that it was planning to undertake a review during 2012. She would be in favour of waiting to see what the review came back with.

His worship said reports he had heard was that the Government was listening with exception of the mileage issue which was a major issue for some other Councils. Some progress was being made.

Cr Bolger said although he found it awkward, someone had to comment, so he would. He had been both a Councillor and a chair. There was a huge difference in workflow as well as in expectation from Council staff, the Mayor and expectation that one placed on oneself. There was also a big difference in experience, institutional knowledge required, and guidance that one could offer the Mayor when required at a Chair's meeting. He would leave the meeting to decide how that would be valued in quantum with remuneration.

Cr D Grant asked Cr Bolger if he considered a chair's workload to be doubled or more.

Cr Bolger said as Deputy Mayor, he was in a slightly different position. Certainly a Chair's workload was significantly more. When things went smoothly, it was a lot less stressful with less work required. However, when things were not going smoothly it was Chairs that had to front up in consultation with the Mayor and Chief Executive and nut out some of the problems and then bring those concerns to the Council for consideration. The Chairs over last few years had stood the test of time in directing the Mayor, Chief Executive and the Council. It was up to the Council how it recognised that. As a chair one had a responsibility to resolve an issue, or seek guidance or do some background work because they had to demonstrate that they had something to offer.

Cr Watt said in respect of Solid Energy, it had been deemed he had a conflict of interest and had to remove himself from the Council. In respect of the current discussion, it could be argued that those in the Chair's positions had a pecuniary gain more clearly than his

pecuniary gain or any gain with Solid Energy. One needed to be careful about these things and avoid the prophecy that could result.

Cr Bolger said he thought one had to flesh that out. He could not see that there was a pecuniary gain.

Cr Watt said pecuniary was money. They were talking about double the money.

His Worship asked Councillors to refer all discussion through the Chair.

Cr Bolger referred the meeting back to the time when Councillors were paid for the number of meetings that they attended. One could pose that same question there. He did not feel as a chair that there was pecuniary gain in the numbers of meetings that he attended. If asked to go, one went.

His Worship said there was an interest, whichever side of the fence one sat on. It was an unfortunate position that Councils were put in to have to decide what split of the remuneration was and hopefully there would be some sense and formulas come out of the Remuneration Authority. It was better than it used to be. He could remember the days when there was no Remuneration Authority. That was difficult. Councils had to decide from scratch what they were worth. It was uncomfortable speaking about money in a public setting. He was pleased Cr Watt had raised it and he respected the view that he had. He believed the balance given the results and efforts that went in from the Chairs that received the remuneration was fair and justified.

Cr Sharp asked Cr Watt what anomalies he was referring to and what would he prefer to see happen.

Cr Watt said he was hoping no one would ask that.

Cr Sharp said he thought he should answer.

Cr Watt said it could be construed by a cynical sceptic that a significant premium way above a premium paid by 32 other councils could be hush money. It could put Chairs of committees in positions when concerns were raised at a council meeting about council management matters for those Chairs to defend them. It was his experience that that had happened frequently around this council table and that really concerned him. .

His Worship said that really offended him. He asked Cr Watt to explain now where he had seen examples of hush money being used to quiet discussions around the Council table.

Cr Watt said he was not intending to do that.

His Worship asked him to do so now. If he was going to make those accusations in public, he needed to front up with the facts.

Cr Davis wanted to hear the facts too.

His Worship said if it offended him, he was sure it would offend a number of people around the table too.

Cr Watt said he could front up, but it could cause more embarrassment.

His Worship said now was the time to do it.

Cr Watt said issues had been raised about roading in this community and this council. Committee Chairs have defended the roading in this council tooth and nail. They won't hear any criticism what so ever. Yet the experience he had was more complaints about roading than anything else. When he raised the issue, it was squashed.

His Worship asked, so that is hush money?

Cr Watt said he did not say it was hush money, he said a skeptic or cynic could construe a premium being paid.

His Worship said he was asking for examples.

Cr Highsted said the Council needed some specific examples. He had made some pretty specific accusations against the Mayor and Chairs.

His Worship said any accusations that the Council was not functioning well and that there was some sort of corruption going on, needed to be exposed and exorcised very quickly. That was all he was asking him to do now. Simply saying that there may have been some sort of disagreement about whether the state of the districts road being good, bad or indifferent, did not cut the mustard.

Cr Watt said it was the Council's job, in due respect, to ask questions of management and Council and to ensure that they got answers to the questions being asked.

His Worship said absolutely, it was.

Cr Watt said it was not the duty of fellow Councillors to jump always to the defence of that management and that was the point he was making. And he said again, always jump to the defence of that management. That is governance and management.

His Worship said that was certainly not the experience he had had. He knew that from time to time there may well be some unjust criticism and he was more than happy to defend the staff. If criticism was justified that needed to be fixed and fronted up to. He did not think that concerned the things that Cr Watt had said.

Cr Bolger said as Mayor, Chair or Councillor, criticism went along with the role and one learned to deal with, justify or follow up. The Council had certainly had a long history of scrutiny by the general public as to the way it operated its financial roading management. He was certainly satisfied that the audit department was satisfied. He had been party to one audit. The Council's roading was scrutinised by an auditing team that other Councils also did. His observation was that the Council was boxing where it needed to be. Well over 50% of the district's roading budget was from central government. It was pitching its roading where it should be. It was addressing roading in an open, honest and upright manner.

Cr Davis said in her 10 years as a Councillor, she had always found that the Mayor, Chief Executive and management had an open door policy. Issues could be dealt with sometimes without being addressed in public. She was quite offended by some of Cr Watt's comments and wanted it recorded.

Cr P grant recalled similar discussion held about a year ago and he had supported it the Chairs remuneration then as a mere Councillor. Now that he was a committee Chair, he now had appreciation of the bigger workload and expectations placed on oneself. He did not feel guilty accepting more money. He did not think anyone would be a Councillor simply for the money anyway.

Cr Gover agreed. Councillors did the job for the good of the community, not the remuneration.

Cr Highsted said he still had an issue about Cr Watt's comment about hush money.

His Worship said he was not leaving it there. He asked Cr Watt to specify exactly if he had seen money being paid to Councillors of any status that has affected decision making of that person, in

writing please. He expected it before the next Council meeting. He reminded Cr Watt that things said at the Council meetings were recorded in public. Be careful what you say. He told Cr Watt that he did not need to be shaking his head. He wanted to get to bottom of the issue. If it had been happening those involved would be routed out and treated accordingly. If the things he had been suggesting had not been happening, he would expect an apology in public from Cr Watt.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the Council approve the revised remuneration levels for the Deputy Mayor, Committee Chairs and Councillors,

AND THAT it note that the proposed remuneration levels for the Community Board Chair and Community Board members will be the subject of a separate report and approval to be obtained from the Mataura Community Board.

2012/35

12. SOUTHERN RURAL FIRE AUTHORITY - STATEMENT OF INTENT
2012-2015 (15.6.3)

A memo had been received from the Roding Manager together with a copy of the Southern Rural Fire Authority Draft Statement of Intent 2012-2015. The purpose of the report was to advise the Council of the intentions of the Southern Rural Fire Authority (SRFA) for the three year period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2015 and to seek the approval of the Gore District Council for its Statement of Intent.

His Worship welcomed Mr Mike Grant, Chief Executive, Southern Rural Fire Authority who provided a background of the Authority.

The Roding Manager said a lot went under the radar. The Council certainly did get value for money from the Authority.

Cr Sharp wondered why the Invercargill City Council paid \$8,000 more than the Gore District Council.

M Grant said Invercargill had a large rural area, including Otatara. The three Councils had vegetation bylaws and the Authority managed them for the Councils.

Cr Sharp said he had received a call from local ratepayers wanting to know when the total fire ban had stopped. They had phoned the Council and were told that the Council did not know if the fire ban had stopped.

His Worship advised an email from the Roading Manager had been sent advising the fire ban had been stopped. The Council staff should have known and he apologised for that. He had read it in the paper as well.

M Grant said the Authority had a limited budget. Signs could not be put on each road. It did advertise and did what it could to get the message out to communities.

His Worship thanked M Grant for attending the meeting and for the work that the Authority did.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr P Grant, THAT the Southern Rural Fire Authority Statement of Intent 2012/2015 be approved by the Council.

2012/36

13. CHANGE TO REGIONAL WATER PLAN - COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLIES (11.19.2)

A memo had been received from the Planning Consultant following concerns expressed by the Council over a period of several years about the lack of priority given to municipal water supplies in the Regional Water Plan and the conditions that applied to consents to take water, that had resulted in Environment Southland undertaking a plan change to deal with the issue. The plan change had been duly notified in late 2010, submissions lodged, a hearing held and a decision had now been released.

The Planning Consultant said the plan represented a success. It was an important step in terms of the consenting process. The Council's involvement had been well worthwhile.

Cr Davis thanked the Consultant for his work involved with the plan to date.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the report be received.

2012/37

14. YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE (50.47.1)

Youth Crs Luke Dolamore and Thomas Cairncross were in attendance and provided an update of Youth Council activities. The Council had held a planning day in March where goals were set for the year. It had held its first council meeting the previous

week where the Constitution had been reviewed and a Chairman and deputy had been elected.

His Worship thanked Crs Dolamore and Cairncross and encouraged them to take an interest in Council agenda items. A youth input was welcomed. Youth Week and the Youth in Local Government conference were coming up. The Youth Awards would be held at the Heartland Hotel, Croydon and would be a prestigious event. He wished the Youth Councillors well and thanked them for the work they were doing.

15. TRANSPOWER SUPPLY UPGRADE (11.22)

A memo had been received from the Planning Consultant advising following an assessment of options and consultation with affected land owners, Transpower had determined the route on which it would seek approval to construct a new transmission line between the Gore substation and the 200kV line that passes to the south of Gore.

Cr Grant declared an interest and left the table.

Cr Highsted said following some discussion he thought option 2 was the best option.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Gover, THAT a hearing panel comprising of Crs Bolger and Davis, and Mr David Pullar as an independent Hearing Commissioner be adopted to consider the notice of requirement to be submitted by Transpower,

THAT Cr Redhead act as an interim on the hearing panel if and when required,

AND THAT the hearing panel be delegated to consider the notice of requirement and submissions lodged to it, and make a recommendation to Transpower.

2012/38

16. COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE WORKING PARTY – SUMMARY REPORT (3.31.1)

A report had been received from the Roothing Manager advising the Council of the outcomes of the Community Bus Service Working Party. A copy of the minutes of the final meeting of the Community Bus Service Working Party held on 12 March 2012, the Mataura to Gore Transport Survey form and the Survey Collated Results Summary Sheet had also been received.

The Roading Manager said both Terms of Reference conditions had been addressed. The Working Party had concluded that a need for a community transport service had been identified and that community governance was the best arrangement, as had been suggested by Russell Parsons, of Parsons Brinkerhoff. With support in principle from the Council it would approach potential funders and providers to investigate the possibility of their involvement. A commercial bus service could also potentially fulfill the role.

In response to His Worship asking how the service would be funded, the Manager said a number of potential funders had been identified. The Council would be a catalyst at that stage. It was not intended that the Council be requested for a grant. The service would charge a small fee. Previous attempts had failed due to expensive fares.

Cr D Grant said he had grown up in Mataura and had been in the tour bus industry. A bus company currently ran two days a week between Gore and Mataura and a catch a bus service ran six days a week. There were other ways to get people to Gore. To run a bus on a return trip from Gore to Mataura would cost approximately \$300.

Cr Gover said the service had been looked at in terms of a trial period, using a van only once a week, more as a community function to allow people to come up at a reasonable time such as 10am and returning at 2pm.

Cr D Grant suggested the working party contacted Red Cross. It could be a good idea but he thought it would not work.

The Manager said once a demand had been established, other options such as the use of a courtesy van on a voluntary basis could be explored. The only way to test that would be a trial. Previous attempts had involved a charge of \$6 each way which had been prohibitive to users and caused its early demise. A subsidised service could also be another possibility.

In response to His Worship asking if there would be any request to the Council for financial commitment, the Manager said possibly in terms of infrastructure, such as a bus shelter. Options were still being looked at. A company might donate a shelter. It would be useful to have the Council's backing in principle.

Cr Sharp said the cold hard reality was that the Council would end up funding the service if it went ahead and it would not be cheap.

The Manager said Parsons Brinkerhoff had successfully initiated services in other areas. If a request came to the Council for funding in the future, it would have the opportunity to turn it down.

His Worship said the only way to know if a service was going to work was to try it. He thought if funding from various community funders was not forthcoming, it could land in the Council's lap. A clear message needed to be given to the governance committee that any funding asked of the Council would need to go through the Long Term Plan process. It could not be taken as a given at all.

Cr Watt wondered if the Council moved the recommendation it might feel committed the next time the item came across the Council table.

His Worship said the Council was trying to establish if there was a need for the service. Surveys suggested there was some issue of need and to what degree was a matter of conjecture.

Cr Dixon said a way out would be a simple "no" if the service had no financial backing.

Cr Highsted said he would be reluctant to support the service because if it needed a backer, the Council would end up being that.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Manager said the next step as detailed in the Parson's Brinkerhoff report, previously supplied to the Council, would be to find an appropriate provider, whether it be a commercial operator or voluntary and to investigate possible funders.

Cr Davis said she was reluctant to support the idea. She thought a service would be at the detriment to Mataura businesses. She did not feel comfortable with the position it would put the Council in.

Cr Gover said a need had been identified. It would probably amount to 24 trips over a six month period. The costs were being investigated so that the costs would not be huge.

His Worship said he thought there was a willingness of the Council to help people who lived in the Mataura area to be able to access services in Gore. Although there was concern around financial commitment in the future, it might be appropriate if the working party could take the comments on board and reconsider how it

might help target those in need and bring back to the Council again.

Cr Gover said that was one of the reasons why the trial was not to commence to July so that all options could be investigated. By having Council approval in principle, it would give better weight when applying for funds.

Cr Highsted suggested Cr D Grant could join the working. He had a wealth of knowledge on the subject.

Cr Grant was happy to join the working party.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr, THAT the report be received,

THAT Cr Doug Grant be appointed as a member of the Community Bus Service Working Party,

AND THAT the Working Party consider the points raised by the Council before reporting back to the Council for further consideration.

2012/39

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.