

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 29 MAY 2012, AT 4.37 PM.

PRESENT	His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Crs Bolger, Beale, Davis, Gover, P Grant, Highsted and Redhead.
IN ATTENDANCE	The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), the Corporate Support Officer, (Mrs Tracey Millan) and six members of the public in the gallery.
APOLOGIES	Cr Dixon, D Grant, Watt and Sharp apologised for absence.

1. REPRESENTATION REVIEW – CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSION RECEIVED TO THE COUNCIL’S PROPOSAL (33.16.3)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive, together with a copy of a submission from Mrs Laurel Turnbull and eleven others, which advocated the abolition of the Mataura Ward and its union with the Gore Ward to form a single urban ward. A copy of the excerpt of minutes of the last Council meeting pertaining to Mrs Turnbull’s presentation and a copy of Section 19H of the Local Electoral Act had also been circulated.

The Chief Executive said there was a simple, albeit profound question the Council had to ask itself in terms of the representation for Mataura. The two recommendations were legislatively compliant. In terms of the merits of the submitter’s argument, it would be over to the Council to weigh that up.

His Worship advised that Cr Sharp had requested prior to the meeting that Councillors in attendance be made aware of his thoughts on the issue. He thought a referendum should be conducted at the next election for Mataura to consider the matter.

Cr Gover thought it would be a good idea for the future, but was too soon. If the people of Mataura were given time to agree, the Council would then know it had a mandate. She preferred to wait until the next election.

Cr Davis asked if the two wards were merged, could it be undone in the future.

The Chief Executive said a merge of the wards could be undone at review time, which had to be conducted every six years or earlier if required.

In response to His Worship, the Chief Executive said Cr Sharp's request was within the law. There was still a decision to be made now. A referendum could be held solely on the Mataura ward. The only downside of a referendum was getting the question right.

His Worship asked if a referendum was held on the issue, and a mandate was received from the Mataura community to pursue that direction, when would it take effect.

The Chief Executive said it would not be a binding referendum, but would give a strong signal that could be used in the next review.

Cr P Grant said he thought the Mataura Community Board could come to the Council with a recommendation that they had a mandate from the Mataura community to make a change and avoid the cost of a referendum.

His Worship said the last time the review had been held, the Mataura Community Board had submitted in favour of an election at large process, including the rural wards. It was subsequently overturned by the Local Government Commission.

Cr Beale said the idea needed a lot more consultation with the Mataura community. He was not convinced it would instigate a lot more polling from Mataura residents. He was not against the concept, just the short timeframe.

Cr Bolger said the submission had been well thought out. It would give Mataura voters a lot more influence at election time. He agreed with Cr Beale and was not sure the majority of people in Mataura would understand how it would work and could feel dissatisfied. The status quo was right at the moment.

His Worship said the proposal had been a good one, well worthy of consideration. He had been concerned about the timing and how widely understood the proposal might be particularly in the Mataura community. He liked to think as a Council, if it did not go down the referendum path, that it would suggest to the next Council that it consider one ward for Gore and Mataura in six years time. He thanked L Turnbull for submitting a proposal that held a lot of merit.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr Beale, THAT pursuant to Section 19N of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the Gore District Council resolve to confirm its review of representation arrangements on the following basis:

- (1) The Gore District, as delineated on SO 11804 deposited with Land Information New Zealand, shall be divided into four wards.**
- (2) The four wards shall be –**
 - (a) the Gore Ward, comprising the area delineated on SO Plan 11903 deposited with Land Information New Zealand,**
 - (b) the Maitara Ward, comprising the area delineated on SO Plan 11488 deposited with Land Information New Zealand,**
 - (c) the Waikaka Ward comprising the area delineated on SO Plan 11482, deposited with Land Information New Zealand; plus the addition of meshblocks 3054900, 3055000 and 3003602, to ensure fair representation,**
 - (d) the Kaiwera-Waimumu Ward comprising the area delineated on SO Plan 386071 deposited with Land Information New Zealand less meshblocks 3054900, 3055000 and 3003602.**
- (3) The Council shall comprise a Mayor and 11 Councillors, elected as follows:**
 - (a) five Councillors elected by the electors of the Gore Ward,**
 - (b) one Councillor elected by the electors of the Maitara Ward,**
 - (c) one Councillor elected by the electors of the Waikaka Ward,**
 - (d) one Councillor elected by the electors of the Kaiwera-Waimumu Ward,**
 - (e) three Councillors elected by the electors of the District as a whole.**
- (4) There shall be a Maitara community, comprising the area of the Maitara Ward as defined in 2(b) above; and**
- (5) The Maitara Community Board shall comprise five elected members and one member of the Council representing the Maitara Ward and appointed to the Community Board by the Council.**

AND THAT it be noted that the reason for rejecting the sole submission advocating the abolition of the Maitara Ward is the

need to identify a community of interest within Mataura in representation arrangements.

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The meeting closed at 4.47 pm.