



**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON
TUESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2012, AT 7.38 pm.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), the 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), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Ms Sarah Dowling), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones) and six members of the public in the gallery.

His Worship called for any conflict of interests.

Cr Bolger advised he had one with the item concerning a temporary exemption from overweight loading rules.

Cr P Grant said Cr Sharp would also have a conflict with the same item.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr Beale, THAT the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 18 September 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 Watt, THAT the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee, held on Tuesday 9 October 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 Dixon, THAT the recommendations contained within the report of the

Community Services Committee, held on Tuesday 9 October 2012, as presented, be ratified.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Gover, THAT the report of the meeting of the Operations Committee, held on Tuesday 9 October 2012, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Watt, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the recommendations contained within the report of the Operations Committee, held on Tuesday 9 October 2012, as presented, be ratified.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Dixon, THAT the report of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on Tuesday 9 October 2012, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Beale, THAT the recommendations contained within the report of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on Tuesday 9 October 2012, as presented, be ratified.

2. PRESENTATION BY YOUTH COUNCILLORS (50.47.1.1)

Youth Councillors Essie van Zuylen, Kate McCabe and Peter Dodds were in attendance and provided an update on forthcoming activities being undertaken by the Youth Council.

The Youth Councillors now departed the meeting.

3. REGULATORY BULLETIN (2.14.3/11.5.2)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive, together with a schedule of building consents issued for September 2012, including a comparison of the previous two years. A schedule of land use consents as at 17 October 2012 and road closures and stopping had also been circulated.

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

2012/141

4. SOLID FUEL OPEN FIRE BAN (11.19.3)

A memo had been received from the Planning Consultant advising that there had been six air quality exceedances within the designated Gore airshed over the winter months this year. The airshed was only allowed one exceedance per year. A plan showing the extent of the Gore airshed together with a copy of the notification received from Environment Southland had been circulated with the agenda.

Cr Dixon was opposed to Environment Southland dictating what residents could burn and said farmers could burn a row of trees for three days and nothing was done about that.

The Consultant said the regional air plan was due for review next year and the Council would be able to make submissions to it.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Consultant said a list of approved solid fuel heaters included those that could not burn coal.

Cr Gover said Gore was probably one of the last areas in the country to ban open fires. Christchurch had had an open fire ban for many years.

His Worship reiterated the ban related to open fires.

Cr Bolger asked if there was an initiative that could be taken up so that people in the south had access to an appliance that could efficiently burn coal.

His Worship suggested getting a report about what was available and what the process would be to have a fire comply.

Cr Bolger suggested the Council refer the matter to Venture Southland.

Cr Highsted said it was not just an open fire ban. It also banned any solid fuel heater that could burn coal.

Cr Beale said there was an inventor in Christchurch who had a patent pending for a coal burner that was expected to meet air quality requirements.

Cr Watt asked what plans were in place for signaling the ban to local residents.

His Worship said it would be publicised through the media.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Beale, THAT the information be received,

AND THAT Venture Southland be asked to investigate the possibility of a clean coal burner that meets the air quality standards.

2012/142

5. STAFF REVIEW OF THE LONG TERM PLAN (LTP) 2012-22 PROCESS
(1.78)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, Corporate Services together with summary notes of discussions held to review the process leading to the adoption of the Long Term Plan 2012-22.

Cr D Grant thought the suggestion of having an interview process to promote the LTP was an excellent idea.

Cr Davis suggested that the interview could be done locally and could be posted on You Tube and the Council website as well.

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

2012/143

6. CREATIVE COMMUNITIES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (18.45.3)

A copy of the minutes of the Creative Communities Assessment Committee meeting held on 5 October, had been circulated with the agenda.

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

2012/144

7. SPORT NEW ZEALAND RURAL TRAVEL FUND (18.81.1)

A copy of the minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on 8 October, had been circulated with the agenda.

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

2012/145

8. GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY (1.36)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a copy of the 2012 resident satisfaction survey conducted by the Southern Institute of Technology. Overall, the Council received a pleasing score for its performance, with a total of 64% of respondents being either very satisfied or satisfied with its performance.

The Chief Executive advised that in future the residents survey would be conducted on an annual basis as that would enable the Council to closely monitor the perception of its performance.

Cr Redhead asked whether a telephone survey was the best method of obtaining the information.

The Chief Executive said it was the most cost effective method. This year the Council had been troubled by the timing of it. The survey had been conducted in September and for rural people, May-June was a better time as opposed to September.

Cr Redhead wondered if there could be a mix of methods to encourage people to take part.

Cr Davis was intrigued by some of the comments made by respondents and how little understanding there appeared to be of just what a Council could and could not be involved with.

Cr Dixon noted there did not seem to be any response from Mataura residents.

The Chief Executive said Mataura residents had been contacted but there was no response. They had not been ignored.

Cr Watt thought the survey was revealing, but was not sure it should be done every year. He asked what action plan was in place to address the weaknesses identified by the survey.

His Worship said from a political perspective, it was being considered at the meeting, so direction should be given to staff if anything was to be taken further.

The Chief Executive said there were some activities of the Council that would not get a high mark because they did not provide a "moving experience". Activities like parks and reserves, arts and heritage and the swimming pool provided good experiences for people. He was not sure it

was a realistic aspiration to see roads threaten the ratings of arts and heritage, parks and the swimming pool. He viewed the results in 2008, 2010 and 2012 as having improved.

His Worship thought surveys could provide trends particularly when undertaken annually.

In response to Cr Bolger, the Roading Manager was pleased with the survey results relating to roading and said the number of customer service requests on rural roading had been gradually declining. It also highlighted that the Council had taken previous concerns on board and improved.

Cr Sharp added he used to get a lot of complaints when he was first elected but over the past 18 months had not had any and that suggested to him the Council was doing things right.

In response to Cr Davis, the Chief Executive said the cost of the survey was \$10,000. A market based company would charge more than double that.

The Chief Executive, in response to Cr Sharp, said the auditors had been urging the Council to undertake the survey annually so that the results that were incorporated into the annual report were more recent.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Redhead, THAT the Gore District Council resident satisfaction survey for 2012 be received.

2012/146

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

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive, together with a copy of the annual report for the Southland Warm Homes Trust for the year ended 30 June 2012.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Watt, seconded by Cr Gover, THAT the annual report of the Southland Warm Homes Trust be received.

2012/147

The Planning Consultant departed the meeting at 8.20 pm

10. TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM OVERWEIGHT LOADING RULES (4.2.7)

A memo had been received from the Roding Manager, together with a letter from the New Zealand Transport Agency advising of a temporary exemption to some of the rules regarding overweight loads on roads granted to Fonterra for the transporting of milk. The temporary (three month) exemption would allow 45 tonne milk tankers on most roads in the Gore District.

The Manager advised that the temporarily increased maximum allowable weight of the milk tankers would have little if any effect on the Gore District roads. However, it would have significant economic and environmental benefits over other potential options.

Crs Bolger and Sharp declared an interest in this matter and withdrew from discussion.

Cr P Grant wondered if the sheep industry would be accorded the same privileges as the dairy industry this year otherwise it appeared the taxpayer and ratepayer was subsidising the dairy industry.

Cr Redhead asked if the matter would come before the Council again after the three month period.

The Roding Manager said a higher road user charge was paid for the privilege of having a heavier load.

Cr Highsted noted that NZTA had advised it was the second season that the exemption had been issued. He thought NZTA should be advised of the Council's concern at apparent favouritism towards the dairy industry.

The Manager advised he was unaware of any previous exemption having been granted.

Cr Highsted moved THAT the report be received,

THAT the Council accept the temporary measure taken by the NZ Transport Agency increasing the maximum loaded weight of milk tankers on Gore District Council roads to 45 tonne,

AND THAT the Council write to NZTA suggesting that all industry sectors be treated equally in regard to the granting of exemptions to established roading rules.

The motion was seconded by Cr P Grant, was put and was carried.

2012/148

11. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT (1.3.2)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, Corporate Services together with a copy of the draft Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2012.

Cr Highsted queried the balance sheet noted said the term debt had become current.

The General Manager said there was an agreement with one of the bankers to have a rolling facility which was on a three year term. It had been confirmed for a three year period but at the end of the financial year, the bank had not formally advised the Council that the rollover had taken place in April so technically it had to be shown as current.

Cr Sharp thought a \$3,000 surplus was too low. An issue such as the Pleura Dam occurring would result in the Council having to borrow to fund it.

The General Manager said a bigger surplus could be achieved, but it would have to be rated for.

His Worship understood the point but it was something that should be discussed at estimates time.

Cr Beale strongly objected to the suggestion and found it absurd to rate people to build up a cash reserve. There were people in the community who struggled to pay their rates now.

Cr Bolger said debt was always topical and he thought the Council's debt was extremely modest for the size of its operation.

Cr Redhead said the annual report summary was very good and easy to read.

Cr Highsted referred to the loan from SBS for Ice Sports Southland on page 37 and thought the loan was secured over the multi-sports complex not the ice rink.

The General Manager confirmed that was also his understanding.

Cr Watt said a bigger surplus could also be made from being more efficient and cutting costs, not just earning more income.

In response to His Worship, the Chief Executive said there was no legislative requirement to publish the summary and he thought it would be appropriate to have copies available at the Council offices and on the website.

Cr Highsted said the Council did not just sit around the table thinking about spending, it did consider operating as efficiently as possible.

Cr Redhead thought the summary was a good vehicle to promote the Council and a good result.

His Worship acknowledged the effort the Council and staff had gone to over the past financial year. In the current conditions he thought it was a very good result and there were good services being delivered.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2012 be adopted.

2012/149

12. FUNDING OF FREE SWIMMING LESSONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN (24.20)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that the Council had deliberated on the submissions received to the Long Term Plan at an extraordinary meeting held on 12 June.

One of the submissions from the Maitua Licensing Trust related to a proposal to offer free swimming lessons to primary school children in the District. The Council had approved \$20,000 towards the proposal.

It had transpired that the Maitua Licensing Trust's contribution to the initiative was intended to come from the Trust's Community Foundation in Auckland, so a revised motion was required.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Gover, THAT the Gore District Council apply to the Trust's Community Foundation for the purpose of seeking financial assistance in the sum of \$30,000 to enable free swimming tuition to be offered to primary school students in the Gore District.

2012/150

13. VENTURE SOUTHLAND - MINUTES OF SOUTHLAND REGIONAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING (50.52)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a copy of the minutes from the Southland Regional Heritage Committee meeting held on 17 August.

In response to Cr Dixon, Cr Highsted advised there was a specific sub-committee that considered the grant applications who were very familiar with the organisations applying. The Council's Arts and Heritage Curator was a member of that sub-committee.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Watt, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the minutes be received.

2012/151

14. VENTURE SOUTHLAND - SOUTHLAND REGIONAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE HEADS OF AGREEMENT (50.52)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive, together with a copy of the Southland Regional Heritage Committee Heads of Agreement 23012-2017. Council approval for renewing the agreement was sought.

Cr Highsted said the agreement had served the Council well to date and the reviewed document had been strengthened. No retrospective applications would be considered. He added the amount that the Council contributed compared to what the District received was excellent.

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

AND THAT the Council approve and adopt the Southland Regional Heritage Committee Heads of Agreement 2012-2017.

2012/152

15. MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD (46.36.3)

A copy of the report of the ordinary meeting of the Maitaura Community Board, held on 1 October, had been circulated.

Cr Dixon moved THAT the report of the meeting held on 1 October be received,

AND THAT the recommendations contained within the report be ratified.

The motion was seconded by Cr P Grant.

Cr Bolger referred to comments made about rating levels and the unfortunate recent reduction at the Alliance meatworks. He suggested residents of Gore and Mataura be made fully aware of the rates rebate scheme that could assist those with a lower income level.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2012/153

16. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (46.12.9)

His Worship referred to the Gore District Community Awards held on 26 October and said it was a stunning event, with stunning nominees, an excellent speaker and in his opinion, had been the best to date.

He had received a heap of positive comments and conveyed thanks to Susan Jones for her work in organising the event.

Cr Sharp advised he, Cr Gover and Cr D Grant had attended Local Government New Zealand KnowHow training on financial governance in September.

His Worship encouraged Councillors to take advantage of as much training as possible. He added he had met with a representative from Local Government New Zealand the previous week and there was a willingness to arrange future training in-house which would enable all Councillors to attend.

Cr P Grant advised he and Cr Beale had attended the AGMs of the Hokonui Heritage Centre Trust and Hokonui Moonshine Museum. Both were running at a loss and if that continued, they would be broke in 10 years.

The meeting concluded at 8:57 pm