

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Civic Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 16 December 2014, at 3.05pm

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

**In Attendance** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), General Manager Community and Strategy (Dr Aaron Fox), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Communications Manager (Sonia Gerken) and 21 members of the public in the gallery.

**Apologies** Crs Byars, Davis, Gover and Sharp apologised for absence.

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His Worship called for any conflicts of interest.

**1. NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY (SC0256)**

His Worship conferred New Zealand citizenship on Mrs Marta Brash, a Hungarian citizen, Dr Robert McBride, an American citizen, Mr William Weir, Mrs Claire Weir, Mrs Nicola Thwaites and Miss Sophie Weir, British citizens, Mr Robert Haugen, Mrs Carrie Haugen and Miss Madison Haugen, American citizens and Mrs Somsamorn McLean, a Thai citizen. All read the relevant Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and each family was presented with a New Zealand kowhai.

*The meeting adjourned at 3.19pm and resumed at 3.28pm.*

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Wednesday 29 October 2014, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Dixon, **THAT** the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 4 November 2014, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Page, seconded by Cr Beale, **THAT** the report of the ordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee, held on Tuesday 25 November 2014, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Dixon, seconded by Cr D Grant, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the Community Services Committee, held on Tuesday 25 November 2014, as presented, be ratified.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Beale, seconded by Cr Highsted, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Operations Committee, held on Tuesday 25 November 2014, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

*Cr P Grant returned to the meeting at 3.30pm*

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Page, seconded by Cr Dixon, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the Operations Committee, held on Tuesday 25 November 2014, as presented, be ratified.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr P Grant, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Regulatory and Planning Committee, held on Tuesday 25 November 2014, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Page, seconded by Cr D Grant, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the Regulatory and Planning Committee, held on Tuesday 25 November 2014, 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 25 November 2014, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Highsted, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on Tuesday 25 November 2014, as presented, be ratified.

*His Worship departed the meeting at 3.32pm and Cr Bolger assumed the Chair.*

3. DRAFT KERBSIDE RECYCLING AND RUBBISH COLLECTION POLICY (SC0689)

A memo had been received from the General Manager District Assets following an increase in the level of rubbish being included in the kerbside yellow recycling bins across Southland. In the three years that the collection service had been operating, the level of contamination had increased from 4% to 16% which had resulted in an additional cost of \$150,000 annually to the WasteNet Councils.

The Waste Advisory Group had drafted a three strike enforcement policy and a copy of it had been circulated, together with legal opinions sought during the development of it. The Group had recommended it be implemented subject to endorsement by the three individual member Councils. A copy of the draft communication campaign had also been circulated.

The General Manager advised the Invercargill City and Southland District Councils had both adopted the policy.

In response to Cr Dixon enquiring about the rate of contamination in the Gore District, the General Manager advised he had no specific figures.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the report entitled "Draft Kerbside Recycling and Rubbish Collection Policy" dated 10 December 2014, be received,**

**THAT the Council determine that this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002,**

**AND THAT the Council adopt the Waste Advisory Group recommendation to implement the draft Kerbside Recycling and Rubbish Collection Policy as an operational activity outside the Solid Waste Bylaw.**

**2014/134**

4. THE SOUTHLAND ECONOMIC PROJECT FOR WATER AND LAND 2020 AND BEYOND (SC0914)

A memo had been received from the 3 Waters Asset Manager briefing the Council on a recent invitation extended to staff to take part in a stream of work being completed as part of Water and Land 2020 and Beyond (WAL2020) which was a partnership project between Environment Southland and Ngai Tahu ki Murihiku that had been underway for some time. Its aim was to prevent further decline in water quality and help the community achieve its goals for water.

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

**2014/135**

5. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive recommending the establishment of an Emergency Committee to deal with any urgent governance or policy issues that may arise over the summer recess.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Dixon, THAT an Emergency Committee consisting of His Worship the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and Crs Beale, D Grant and Page be appointed to deal with urgent governance and policy issues that require actioning prior to the March 2015 Council meeting, with any two of the Emergency Committee members having power to act,**

**AND THAT any decisions made by the Emergency Committee be reported to the next meeting of the Gore District Council to be held on 10 March 2015.**

**2014/136**

6. SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR 2015

A schedule of proposed meeting dates for 2015 had been circulated with the agenda.

Cr Dixon asked if there had been any consideration given to Committee meetings starting at 5.00pm.

Cr Beale supported that but said he had factored start times in when putting himself forward for election. He would prefer the workshops to start at 5.00pm rather than 4.00pm.

Cr Page thought the staff should be considered if there was to be any change to meeting times.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the schedule of meeting dates for 2015 be adopted, noting that the Committee meetings in April would be held on Monday 13 April and the December meeting would commence at 3.00pm.**

**2014/137**

7. MATAURA COMMUNITY GARDEN – REVIEW OF GRANT (SC0870)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a letter from the Coordinator of the Mataura Community Garden Committee, Mrs Barbara Cunningham. The Committee requested a review of the amount paid to it as a grant which was used towards payment of rates on some of the land used as the community garden.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dixon, seconded by Cr P Grant, THAT the Council include an amount of \$1,300 as a grant in favour of the Matura Community Garden Committee in its 2015/16 estimates,**

**AND THAT the grant be reviewed upwards in line with further movements for the rates on that property from 2016/17.**

**2014/138**

**8. WAIMEA PLAINS RAILWAY TRUST – GRANT FOR BUILDING CONSENT FEES (SC0870)**

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a letter from the Waimea Plains Railway Trust seeking a waiver of building consent fees incurred in relocating historic railway buildings on to the Trust's Mandeville site. The total of fees payable was \$3,213.25 and could be accommodated from the Council's grants budget where a few minor grants previously allocated had not been uplifted.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Beale, seconded by Cr Dixon, THAT the Council approve a grant of \$3,213.25 in favour of the Waimea Plains Railway Trust to enable building consent fees incurred in relocation of heritage buildings onto its Mandeville site, to be paid.**

**2014/139**

**9. GORE DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION (SC0066)**

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that the Youth Council had recently appointed its members for the 2015 year from local schools and the wider community. The Council had been advised that Menzies College did not wish to be involved with the Youth Council any longer and as such, would not be making any appointments.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dixon, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the Youth Council constitution be amended to reflect the removal of Menzies College from membership and the subsequent reduction in overall membership from 24 to 21 Youth Councillors.**

**2014/140**

**10. SCHEDULE OF BUILDING CONSENTS**

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

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

**2014/141**

11. NEW SWIM SQUAD TRAINING PROGRAMME (SC0221)

A memo had been received from the General Manager District Assets briefing the Council on the new programme that had been implemented following the withdrawal of a professional swim coach by Hokonui Aquatics.

A potential consequence caused by the withdrawal was lost revenue of approximately \$11,000 through a drop in lane hire income. The risk to the Council was a financial one with the additional hours being funded for a professional swim coach. A break-even point was determined by examining how many training participants would be required to offset the additional cost. There was a high level of confidence in the aquatics team that the programme would be successful, or at the very least, cost less than a do nothing approach. The viability of the programme would be reviewed after its first year of operation.

In response to Cr Beale asking what the extra costs would be in addition to the current operational costs, the General Manager advised the break-even point had been assessed and said while there was potential for some loss, it was less than if the Council had done nothing.

The new programme would build on the successful swim school which catered for everyone from babies upwards. Details of the names and functions of the squads were outlined to the Council.

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

**2014/142**

12. VENTURE SOUTHLAND – DRAFT LETTER OF EXPECTATION 2015/16 (SC0333)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a draft letter of expectation which would serve to provide greater clarity in respect of what was expected for services delivered by Venture Southland.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the Council endorse the draft letter of expectation as circulated and authorise its execution by His Worship the Mayor.**

**2014/143**

13. DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES (SC0392)

A copy of the annual report on the Council's dog control policy and practices for the year ending 30 June 2014 had been circulated.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Page, THAT pursuant to section 6 of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003, the Gore District Council report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the 2013/14 be adopted.**

**2014/144**

**14. REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCIL**

A copy of the report of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 1 December 2014 had been circulated.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Dixon, THAT the report of the meeting held on 1 December be received.**

**2014/145**

**15. ANIMAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2014**

The Council perused the animal control activities report for November.

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

**2014/146**

**16. RESPONSE FROM ENVIRONMENT SOUTHLAND – REQUEST TO INITIATE VARIATION TO DRAFT REGIONAL AIR PLAN FOR SOUTHLAND (SC0461)**

A copy of a letter from the Chair of Environment Southland had been circulated in response to a request from the Council requesting that Environment Southland initiate a variation to the proposed Regional Air Plan 2014 in respect of the rules which were proposed to take effect in 2015.

Cr D Grant noted a comment in the letter that it was Environment Southland's "view" that the notified prohibitions did not affect whether the heating appliance was legally installed. He asked if it was a view or in fact a legal opinion.

The Chief Executive said it was a view, but any appliance had to be legally installed and with the appropriate consents. He said the Council may elect to get its own legal advice.

Cr Highsted suggested approaching the Insurance Council for a ruling. He said elderly people were sticklers for rules and if they could not burn Kai coal after 1 January then they would go cold.

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

**AND THAT the Council approach the New Zealand Insurance Council for an opinion on whether residents were contravening their home insurance policies by not adhering to the new rules.**

**2014/147**

A suggestion was made that the Council embark on an education process to remind residents on when Kai coal should cease from being burned.

The Chief Executive cautioned the Council in issuing statements to the public for an area that it did not have jurisdiction over or have any authority for assessing the implications. He would consult with Environment Southland in the New Year about a suitable education package to keep residents informed.

**17. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

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

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

**2014/148**

The meeting concluded at 4:19pm