

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 18 September 2018, at 6.37pm

**Present** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Crs Beale, Bolger, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant, P Grant, Highsted, Phillips, Reid and Sharp.

**In Attendance** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager Regulatory and Planning (Mr Ian Davidson-Watts), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard from 7.00pm), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Communications-Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standring), Project Manager Infrastructure (Mr Hashem Ramezan-zadeh from 7.00pm), Social Capacity and Health Coordinator (Mrs Bernadette Hunt) and 24 members of the public in the gallery.

**Apology** Cr Davis apologised for absence.

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1. NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY (SC2035)

His Worship conferred New Zealand citizenship on Andrew Leonard, Samantha Elaine, Hannah Ruth and Adrian Joshua Claassen, citizens of South Africa, John Mwangi Macharia, Catherine Nyambura Macharia and Cynthia Njeri Mwangi, citizens of Kenya and Harriet Freya Grogan, a British citizen.

All read the Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation of Allegiance. Each new citizen was presented with a New Zealand silver fern lapel pin and each family presented with a New Zealand kowhai and the New Zealand citizenship story book provided by the Department of Internal Affairs.

*The meeting adjourned at 6.53 and resumed at 7.09pm with six members of the public in the gallery.*

## 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Gardyne, **THAT** the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 7 August 2018, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Dickson, seconded by Cr Beale, **THAT** the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 28 August 2018, 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 D Grant, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Operations Committee, held on Tuesday 28 August 2018, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Bolger, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Operations Committee, held on Tuesday 28 August 2018, as presented, be ratified.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr Phillips, **THAT** the report of the ordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee, held on Tuesday 28 August 2018, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Beale, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee, held on Tuesday 28 August 2018, as presented, be ratified.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Gardyne, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Regulatory and Planning Committee, held on Tuesday 28 August 2018, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Highsted, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Regulatory and Planning Committee, held on Tuesday 28 August 2018, as presented, be ratified.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr D Grant, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on Tuesday 28 August 2018, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Reid, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on Tuesday 28 August 2018, as presented, be ratified.

### 3. URGENT LATE BUSINESS

His Worship said there was a member of the community who had requested to make a presentation to the Council about a roading issue. He added it would need to be considered in committee.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT pursuant to section 46 (a)(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the Council accept the item of urgent late business, to be considered in committee.**

2018/104

### 4. YOUTH COUNCIL

A copy of the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 30 July had been circulated with the agenda.

Brayden Scott, Jay Wadsworth and Zac Samson were in attendance and gave an update on recent activities undertaken by the Youth Council along with some of the events that were unable to be undertaken, such as speed dating with the Council. It was intended to create a karakia for the Youth Council with the assistance of Matu Coleman-Clarke. A successful river clean-up had been held on Saturday 15 September with a good turnout of helpers. Work was progressing well with planning for the Youth Awards to be held on 1 December.

*The Youth Councillors departed the meeting at 7.18pm*

### 5. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE (SC0026)

A report had been circulated from the Mayoral Office Social Capacity and Health Coordinator advising there was growing community concern about the increased gang presence in the Gore District and across Southland. There was a coordinated and planned effort by the Mongrel Mob to grow its presence in the south. The Maitua community and Gore Police were seeing this through an increasing number of newcomers to the town who were connected to the gang and it was also evident in other towns throughout Otago and Southland.

It was suggested that a community working group of no more than ten people be formed to drive forward initiatives in a collaborative way. The working group would include representation from the Council, Maitua Community Board, Gore Police and Hokonui Runanga. Other representatives would be selected from across the community and could include the Maitua Marae, Youth Council, shearing industry, mental health, Salvation Army, MSD, GoRetail, Southern DHB and education. A list of suggested initiatives had been provided, some of which had been implemented

elsewhere under the Safe Communities umbrella. By joining Safe in the South, the Council would become part of the Safe Communities network and would gain access to a number of initiatives which could be rapidly implemented.

Senior Sergeant Cynthia Fairley was in attendance together with the Chairman of the Maitua Community Board, Mr Alan Taylor and Board member, Mr Greg Chaffey.

His Worship said there had been an increase in the prevalence of methamphetamine in the community and there was a willingness amongst a number of agencies in the district to get together and try and alleviate some of the severe repercussions being seen in families and individuals affected by meth. There had been feelings in the community that the increase in meth use had been associated with gang presence. His Worship said it was not a gang issue, although gangs would be part of any discussion and solution. In the past few days he had met with a number of gang members to talk about the drug issue and had had a constructive conversation. He thought there was an opportunity to do something similar to other parts of New Zealand across law and order, involving social agencies, community groups and gang members to achieve something special.

The Social Capacity and Health Coordinator highlighted the title of the report as “community resilience” as an intention to improve the wellbeing of the community. It was not aimed at gangs. It was proposed to establish a working group to try and determine the best approach to take.

In response to Cr P Grant, Snr Sgt Fairley advised “red frogs” were members of volunteer, Christian based groups who assisted people affected by alcohol to be in a safe environment.

Cr Beale asked if the staff levels at the Maitua police station were sufficient. Snr Sgt Fairley advised it was a two person station and there was currently a vacancy that had existed for about a year. Staff from the Gore station were currently used to back-up. She would like to investigate whether there should be a community police officer based in the town. She added she was keen to get a person who could interact face to face with people in Maitua.

His Worship asked about current staff numbers in the Gore District. Snr Sgt Fairley advised they were good and there had been good levels of recruitment recently. She currently had eight probationary Constables. She was hoping to increase the number of officers in the family harm area and in the preventative space that included drug use offenders.

In response to His Worship, the Community Board Chairman, Alan Taylor appreciated His Worship’s comments about improving the local community. He saw it in relation to Maitua to taking some initiative itself. Maitua was no different to any other small town in the country about trying to provide a better community for its residents.

There were concerns about the increase in drug use and he hoped a community led initiative could help and resolve some of those issues.

Greg Chaffey said the Community Board had been working on the issue for some time. He wondered if the current policing model was working. He commended Snr Sgt Fairley for trying to fill the vacancy. Sitting on hands would only continue what already existed. He did not know if the answer would ever be found, but being proactive with finding a solution would help.

Snr Sgt Fairley advised a community police officer for Maitua was something she wanted to put in place. She was also keen to have improvement in the prevention space.

Cr P Grant asked what the biggest problem for the police was, drugs or alcohol? Snr Sgt Fairley advised alcohol was always a driver of crime. The police referred to alcohol and other drugs. There was also organised crime. Drugs were profitable, highly addictive and dangerous. The police were also working with the Maitua Licensing Trust and hotel owners.

Cr Dickson recalled the Neighbourhood Watch programme some years ago that involved the community looking out for each other. Snr Sgt Fairley said it was very much part of the focus she would like to introduce. There were neighbourhood support groups but she would like to have more that the police could support.

Cr Reid asked if the police saw preventative action being focused on youth and education? Snr Sgt Fairley said it involved a lot of different groups. Meth was used by a range of people in the community. The police endeavoured to get the information into the early intervention area and in some other parts of the country there were multi-agencies involved to assist families especially when the police had been involved from the outset.

Mr Chaffey said it took 20 years to change a culture or behaviour.

**Cr Phillips moved THAT the information be received and noted,**

**AND THAT the Council approve finance of \$9,200 to progress community resilience initiatives as outlined in the report, plus an ongoing commitment to Safe in the South.**

**The motion was seconded by Cr D Grant.**

Cr Sharp had a problem with the motion. He paid taxes and rates and now he was being asked to do both. Safe in the South had been considered before by the Council and he had not changed his mind about it. He had trouble spending ratepayer money to support the police.

His Worship said it was not about putting money aside to help the police. The police were part of the solution but the problem was in the community. The Council was being asked to be part of the solution. The police were a small part of it.

Snr Sgt Fairley saw returning to Gore as coming home after being away for eight years. She was aware of the Safe in the South programme. Making a safer community across all of Southland was an exciting opportunity. Oamaru had had safer communities for years and there were a lot of good presentations made for families in that area. Any improvement was going to be good for the community.

Cr Gardyne asked who the face of the safer south programme would be. His Worship said there would be regular presentations to the Council, probably from Mrs Hunt.

B Hunt said becoming involved in Safe in the South would enable a Councillor to be involved with the governance group and she was happy to provide regular reports back to the Council on the programme.

Snr Sgt Fairley said the other Southland Mayors sat on the Safe in the South governance group.

In response to Cr Beale, B Hunt advised the amount now being sought from the Council was \$6,700 which was less than the \$8,000 that had been discussed earlier in the year.

**The motion was put and it was carried.**

**2018/105**

*Snr Sgt Fairley and B Hunt and MCB members departed at 7.47pm*

**6. CREATIVE COMMUNITIES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

A copy of the report from the Creative Communities Assessment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8 August 2018 had been circulated.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Phillips, THAT the information be received.**

**2018/106**

**7. MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD REPORT (SC1522)**

A copy of the report of the meeting of the Matura Community Board held on 20 August 2018, had been circulated.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the report be received,**

**AND THAT the recommendations contained within the report be ratified.**

**2018/107**

**8. VENTURE SOUTHLAND QUARTERLY REPORT (SC2030)**

A quarterly report from Venture Southland to 30 June 2018 had been circulated with the agenda.

**Cr Dickson moved THAT the report be received.**

**The motion was seconded by Cr Gardyne.**

Cr Dickson referred to the median household income which reported as being down by 14.5% between 2016 and 2017. She said it did not appear to have been corrected from the previous quarterly report. Cr Bolger said Venture generated a lot of reports but probably did not have any influence over the median income data. He thought much of the income fluctuation would be due to agricultural commodity levels.

Cr Gardyne asked if Venture had too many activities on the go. Cr Bolger said it was a fair question and he was happy to raise it at the next Directorate meeting. The organisation also delivered a number of activities for Southland District and Invercargill City and not all of the activities were the same. Venture had been blessed with quality and talented staff.

**The motion was put and it was carried.**

**2018/108**

**9. RURAL HALLS AND DOMAINS SUBCOMMITTEE**

A copy of the report of the meeting of the Rural Halls and Domains Sub-Committee meeting held on 6 September 2018 had been circulated with the agenda.

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

**AND THAT the recommendations contained within the report be ratified.**

**2018/109**

**10. UPDATE OF SOUTHLAND TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT (SC2032)**

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that under section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002, all local authorities within a specified region must enter into an agreement containing the protocols for communication and coordination amongst them during the period until the next triennial general election of members. The agreement had last been renewed in early 2017, however, since

then, some minor changes had been made to take account of the involvement of the regional Deputy Chair and Deputy Mayors. A copy of the updated agreement had been prepared by Environment Southland and had been circulated with the agenda.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the Council endorse the updated triennial agreement and authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive as signatories.**

**2018/110**

11. 2018 GORE DISTRICT RESIDENTS' SURVEY (SC2007)

A memo had been received from the Communications/Marketing Manager reporting on the results of the 2018 Gore District residents' survey. Comments from some Managers in response to outcomes and/or comments in the survey had also been provided. A copy of the final survey had been circulated with the agenda.

His Worship said there was a reasonably clear message from the survey that the community wanted to engage more with the elected members.

Cr Bolger thought the overall result was what it was. He felt during the last couple of years especially, the organisation had been fantastically busy. From the survey, he thought it appeared the community expected the Council to do a little better.

His Worship took the results to mean the community wanted to speak with the elected members more.

Cr Beale thought there was work needed on the Councillor's performance and perhaps there were too many issues on the Council's plate.

Cr Dickson asked if the Council could ask through Facebook or some other platform how the community wanted to engage with the Council. The Communications Manager said there was a mix of more on-line communication but with the demographic of the district there were still a lot of people who liked the face to face contact.

His Worship said he thought the best engagement the Council had undertaken was when the recycling programme was introduced.

Cr D Grant agreed with Cr Beale. Perhaps with issues such as potential water restrictions the Councillors should get out into the community and supermarkets to speak with individual ratepayers and residents. Many people he had spoken with on the street were blaming the pending restrictions on Mataura Valley Milk which had nothing to do with the level of the aquifers.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Dickson, THAT the 2018 Residents' survey and accompanying report be received.**

**2018/111**

**12. OTAMA RURAL WATER SUPPLY BILL (SC1747)**

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive updating the Council that the Gore District Council (Otama Water Supply) Bill had received its first reading in the House on 8 August 2018. Submissions on the Bill closed with the Select Committee on 28 September. The Committee was due to report back to the House on submissions received and its analysis and recommendations on issues raised, by 8 February 2019.

Cr Gardyne said there was a possibility that the Select Committee may hear any oral submissions in Gore.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the update be received.**

**2018/112**

**13. MLT EVENT CENTRE - DAMAGE TO THE BLEACHER SUPPORT WALL (SC2195)**

A report had been received from the General Manager Infrastructure updating the Council on the preliminary assessment of bleacher cracks and the reinforcement plan at the MLT Event Centre. The specialist advice received was there was no risk as long as there was no weight on the tiered seating. The seating area had been closed as a precautionary measure while structural engineering checks were being undertaken. A preliminary report from the structural engineer had been circulated with the agenda. It recommended strengthening work to support the bleachers in the lobby area and a repair method.

A request had been made to WSP-Opus to provide an offer of service to complete the detailed structural design for the proposed strengthening work. It was expected the work would be completed by March 2019.

The engineer's estimate for the proposed work was as follows:

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost estimate</b>
1	Bleacher assessment	\$5,600 plus GST
2	The assessment of the stadium	\$29,500+GST
3	To complete the detailed structural design for the proposed strengthening of bleachers	\$10,000+ GST
4	Bleacher reinforcement work by the contractor	\$ TBA

The work was unbudgeted and the activity had no funding in reserves. The Council's insurance broker had been notified.

Cr Reid asked if there had been any thought given to installing temporary seating in the meantime. The Chief Executive said there had not been, but he would get the Event Centre Supervisor to investigate.

Cr P Grant said if the structural assessment of the entire building resulted in a less than adverse result, the seating would not be repaired in time for the next netball season.

Cr Highsted asked if the insurer or the Council would pursue the ten year building warranty. The Chief Executive said the Council was within the ten year timeframe. It was difficult to determine at this point whether the Council or its insurer would pursue the warranty. He said the building had been gifted to the Council and it had had no design input into it. Legal advice would be sought.

Cr Sharp said it was a no-brainer to repair the seating, but it was nuts to borrow \$45,000 for 20 years. It should be put on overdraft and paid off next year. The Council should be running at a surplus. The Chief Executive said it was not so much the costs in front of the Council currently but the costs to be faced when the solution was put in place after a tender process. The costs would increase once the detailed design had been completed.

Cr Beale said when the Council inherited the building, did that activate depreciation being funded. The Chief Financial Officer replied it did and it was being used for some of the renewals but it would not cover the costs currently before the Council.

Cr Phillips asked if the Council should ask the engineer if some of the seating could be utilised. The Chief Executive said the issue was about policing how many people may be on the seating and the Council was not set up to ensure there was a maximum of people on the seating at any one time. It was worth asking the engineer.

Cr Highsted was curious about Cr Sharp's comments and asked where the surplus was. Cr Sharp said he and Cr Gardyne had mentioned having a surplus in the past. He said rate more, spend less or a little bit of both. There were ways of running a surplus.

His Worship said the Council had been through a Long Term Plan and what the Council could and could not afford to pay. The Council had endorsed the process and Cr Sharp had been part of the process. The Chief Financial Officer said the Council ran a budget surplus for every year of the LTP but the surplus was committed to loan repayments or capital expenditure. Cr Sharp understood that, but a surplus was uncommitted funds.

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

**THAT the Council acknowledge that there is a need to act as quickly as possible to prevent the on-going deterioration to the bleacher support wall,**

**AND THAT the work be funded through a 20 year loan.**

**2018/113**

**14. ACCESSION AS GUARANTOR TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AGENCY (SC2168)**

A memo had been received from the Chief Financial Officer advising that the process of acceding as a guarantor to the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) had been completed. The Council had been assisted through the process by Buddle Findlay. Now that the Council was a guarantor, the margin for future borrowing would be 10 basis points less.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Officer said the guarantee was for the LGFA debt. There were also a number of other guarantor members.

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

**2018/114**

The meeting concluded at 8.27pm