

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, James Cumming Wing, 10C Ardwick Street, Gore, on Tuesday 18 February 2020, at 4.00pm

Present His Worship the Mayor, Mr Tracy Hicks JP, Crs Bolger, Davis, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant, N Grant, Highsted, MacDonell, McPhail, Phillips and Reid.

In attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager Regulatory and Community Services (Mr Ian Davidson-Watts), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Communications-Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken), Planning Manager (Mr Dean Balkin), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Migrant Services Coordinator (Mrs Mihaela Erdelyi), Accountant (Mrs Donna McKewen), senior Regulatory Officer (Mrs Frances Shepherd), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard, from 4.52pm), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss, from 4.52pm) and two members of the public in the gallery.

His Worship said there had been a lot happen in the district over the past 10 days with the recent flooding and subsequent civil defence emergency. A lot of people had put in a lot of hours during the event. He thanked those involved on behalf of the Council and the community.

The local controller, Ian Davidson-Watts gave an overview of the event and the actions put in place to ensure the safety of the district. One of the learnings from the event was that Environment Southland needed to invest a lot more in its rainfall recording stations. There had been 2,500 people evacuated from Gore. Mataura was isolated from Gore and the ECC had assumed responsibility for looking after the Mataura community which was also evacuated. There were concerns with the ouvea premix stored in the former Mataura Paper Mills. There was no respite for the organisation. There were 26 properties affected by flooding that had had yellow placards placed on them. He believed it was a very successful response.

The Chief Executive said he had been impressed by the culture of the organisation and the resilience of those staff who had pitched in to help. The scenarios in terms of hydrologist's predictions had been a moving target and a lot of decisions were made with conflicting information. The people who arrived from other local authorities to assist fitted in very well, had been well received and were a great asset to the overall response. He had questioned

the wisdom of having all of the emergency management staff domiciled in Invercargill and wondered if there should not be 1-2 key staff based in the Gore District. He said the Council's staff had been tested but had come through very well and would be better equipped as a result.

His Worship said the emergency management set-up in Southland had been tested for the first time and he thought it had been well handled. He felt there was a good basis for going forward. A lot of his time during the event had been focused on media enquiries. The focus had shifted in recent days to the ouvea premix at the paper mill. The real challenge was the next few weeks and months especially for those displaced from their houses and businesses. A regional Recovery Manager had been appointed. The state of civil defence emergency had been lifted and the transitional and recovery phase would continue for some time.

Cr D Grant commended the information provided through Antenno. He said the comments he had received were positive.

The Communications Manager advised there had been 448 installations of Antenno during the three days of the event. The engagement across the Council's communication channels had been very good.

Cr Reid said not everyone was on social or electronic media and the local radio station was an important channel for those people.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dickson, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 10 December 2019, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

2. URGENT LATE BUSINESS

The Chief Executive advised an item of urgent late business would be considered relating to the appointment of a local recovery coordinator following the flooding event.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr McPhail, THAT pursuant to Section 46 (a)(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the Gore District Council address the following which requires urgent attention.

Subject

Appointment of a local recovery coordinator following the 5-6 February flooding event in Eastern Southland.

Reason for not being on agenda

The issue was not considered until after the agenda has been distributed.

Reason for urgency

To ensure a prompt response is provided to the needs of people displaced as a result of the flooding event.

2020/01

3. DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW (SC0487)

A memo had been received from the Planning Consultant detailing the work undertaken to date on the pending District Plan review, highlighting new issues that had arisen that impacted on the review, the progress proposed for the next phase of the review and options for Councillor involvement.

A total of 82 issues that required consideration had been identified. A number of those were of a technical nature. The issue of most significance was providing for future growth of urban areas, including expansion and servicing of land for residential, industrial and commercial use. A Spatial Plan had been adopted to consider the issues associated with future growth and was currently subject to public consultation.

New issues that impacted on the District Plan review included the National Planning Standards and National Policy Statements. Details of the proposed action for 2020 had been detailed. That included staff and consultants having commenced drafting the technical chapters of the review together with section 32 evaluations for each topic. Following an internal review and audit, sign-off of the draft would be sought from the Council. A copy of the draft would also be forwarded to those Iwi groups wishing to be consulted, as required by the Resource Management Act, although the process for that had still to be finalised.

Three options for Councillor involvement were detailed, as follows:

- Appoint a Committee to consider all matters;
- Appoint a Committee to overview all matters, referring contentious and significant matters to the full Council; or
- The full Council to consider all matters.

A copy of the report provided to the March 2019 Council meeting and the subsequent minutes had been circulated with the agenda. Also circulated had been the list of chapters likely to be contained in the District Plan review.

His Worship said the review would be a large piece of work that may continue into the next term of the Council. He noted the previous Council had determined that all Councillors be involved with the review, however, his observations had been that involvement was patchy.

Cr Bolger favoured a smaller group that reported back to the Council. Cr Highsted concurred. He raised potential conflicts of interest that some members of the group may have. His Worship would like to think they could be managed.

In response to Cr Reid, the Planning Consultant said there were a number of data sources available that identified potential biodiversity sites. Cr Dickson recalled there had been a suggestion about compensation for biodiversity sites. Would that be financial and where would the funding come from. The Consultant advised it would be up to the full Council to determine. The General Manager Regulatory and Planning said unless there was any specific funding available from central Government, any compensation would come from the ratepayer. The Consultant added the Council would need to work with Environment Southland.

Cr D Grant asked if there was a timeframe for the review. The Consultant hoped to have a first draft available in about 12 months time.

Cr Davis asked if the group to be appointed needed to be different from those Councillors who may sit on a hearings panel. The Consultant said they could be the same people.

The Chief Financial Officer and 3 Waters Manager attended the meeting from 4.52pm

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the Council endorse the approach proposed for the Gore District Plan review,

AND THAT a Committee be appointed to overview all matters, referring contentious and significant matters to the full Council.

2020/02

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the District Plan Review Committee comprise Crs Bolger, Dickson, Gardyne, MacDonell and Phillips.

2020/03

4. PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION – LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND FINANCING
(SC2458)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that the Productivity Commission had finalised its report into local government funding and financing after considering submissions received. The Council had submitted on four key points. A copy of the submission from the Council had been circulated with the agenda.

Councillors expressed disappointment at the lack of support from the Commission for continuing with the rates rebate scheme. Cr Phillips said discontinuing the scheme would come as a shock to many people. His Worship thought if the Government was of a mind to make changes, that they would be signalled with plenty of notice. Local Government New Zealand would lobby the Government to retain the scheme.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT the report be received.

2020/04

The Planning Consultant departed the meeting at 5.03pm

5. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE (SC2549)

A memo had been received from the Administration Manager together with a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Emergency Committee meeting held on Monday 16 December 2019.

Cr Davis asked for an update about Pakeke Lions as the Club had recently advised businesses it would not continue to collect paper. The Chief Executive said the grant was an interim measure pending the Club landing on a position. He and His Worship were meeting with Club representatives the following day and would advise the Council of the outcome.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the notes of the Emergency Committee meeting held on 16 December 2019 be received,

AND THAT the decision taken be ratified.

2020/05

6. WELCOMING COMMUNITIES (SC2588)

A memo had been received from the Administration Manager advising that Welcoming Communities had been a programme supported by Immigration New Zealand, the Office of Ethnic Affairs and local government. The Southland region had been selected as part of a pilot and the programme had been led by Great South/Venture southland since 2017. Great South had signalled that it would conclude its involvement at the end of February and hoped that the four Southland Councils would continue with the programme in some capacity.

The Council was fortunate to have Mrs Mihaela Erdelyi as its part-time Migrant Services Coordinator who had been closely associated with the programme since its inception. Much of what the programme covered was already covered by Mrs Erdelyi's role.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Reid, THAT the Council confirm its intention to implement the Welcoming Communities programme into its relevant plans and documents.

2020/06

The Migrant Services Coordinator departed the meeting at 5.10pm

7. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2019

A financial report for December 2019 had been circulated with the agenda.

Cr Bolger extended thanks to Mr Blackbeard for his explanations associated with financial matters over the years. His Worship concurred and said his contribution over

the 13 years had been huge, not just the financial capability but also the culture. He had set a high benchmark to follow. He had enjoyed working with him and wished he and his family all the best. Mr Blackbeard thanked His Worship for his support and said he had enjoyed working for the Council during the past 13 years.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT the financial report to December 2019 be received.

2020/07

8. QUARTERLY TREASURY REPORT (SC2459)

A memo had been received from the Chief Financial Officer together with a treasury report prepared by Bancorp to 31 December 2019.

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

2020/08

9. BACKGROUND TO INSURANCE COSTS FOR THE EASTERN SOUTHLAND GALLERY (SC2839)

A memo had been received from the Chief Financial Officer following a Council decision to approve an increase in the annual grant to the Eastern Southland Gallery to cover its rising insurance costs. The District Arts and Heritage Curator had advised both the Gallery and its collection were of national significance. Because of that, the 2002/03 \$1.3 million redevelopment had been funded by the Government and contestable funding agencies. It was a condition of those funders and the collection donors that insurance be in place for both the structure and the collections.

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

2020/09

10. MINUTES OF WASTENET MEETING (SC0705)

A copy of the minutes of the WasteNet meeting held on 18 December 2019 had been circulated for the Council's information.

Cr Bolger said he was disappointed that both Gore and Southland District Councils were heading in a different direction to the Invercargill City Council. Smart Environmental, who had been excluded from the process as a result of ICC not supporting its tender, had subsequently placed the Invercargill City Council on notice and may pursue legal costs.

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

2020/10

11. HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICY (SC0110)

A memo had been received from the Administration Manager advising that a hearing of submissions to the Council's Local Alcohol Policy had been held on 12 December 2019. Submissions had been received from Alcohol Healthwatch, the Health Promotion Agency and the Southern District Health Board. A copy of the report of the hearing had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dickson, seconded by Cr McPhail, THAT the report of the hearing of the submissions to the Gore District Local Alcohol Policy be received,

AND THAT subject to the following revisions being included, the Local Alcohol Policy be adopted:

Clause 3.2(a) The wording to be amended from "imposing conditions of approval" to "imposing discretionary conditions".

Clause 6.1(d) The words "including playgrounds" be added.

Clause 6.2(c) The wording be amended from "no restriction, however applications will need to justify the hours requested", to "the hours between 8.00am on any day of the week to 3.00am the following day".

Clause 6.4(c) The following be added: "Prohibiting single sales of beer or ready-to-drink spirits (RTDs) in bottles, cans or containers of less than 440ml in volume except for craft beer and shots or pre-mixed shots".

2020/11

12. REVIEW OF COMBINED LOCAL APPROVED PRODUCTS POLICY (SC0110/SC2692)

A memo had been received from the senior Regulatory Officer advising that in accordance with section 67 of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013, the Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council resolved in 2014 to adopt a single local approved products policy for their districts. The effect is that in respect of the Policy, they were to be treated as if they were a single territorial authority with a single district.

The Combined Local Approved Products Policy (LAPP) became effective on 22 December 2014 and was due for review.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the Council approve, pursuant to section 69 of the Psychoactive Substances ACT 2019, to proceed with the review on the basis the Council intends to retain its current Combined Local Approved Products Policy.

2020/12

The senior Regulatory Officer now departed the meeting.

13. DAMAGE AND COSTS FOLLOWING FEBRUARY FLOODING EVENT

The Chief Executive advised collating the information relating to damage and costs following the February flooding event was still a work in progress.

14. RENEWAL OF SOUTHLAND TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT (SC2590)

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 protocols for communication and coordination during the period until the next triennial general election of members.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Chief Executive thought the Shared Services Forum had effectively been disestablished about 12 months earlier. It had been superseded by Great South and the Mayoral Forum.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Gardyne, seconded by Cr Reid, THAT subject to clarification about the status of the Shared Services Forum, the Council endorse and approve the revised triennial agreement and authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive as signatories.

2020/13

15. GREAT SOUTH LETTER OF EXPECTATION 2020 (SC2586)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that under the constitutional arrangements put in place for the governance and operation of Great South, a letter of expectation had to be prepared by the Southland Mayoral Forum to enable the Great South Board to prepare a draft Statement of Intent. A high level letter of intent had been developed and was approved by the Mayoral Forum in early February. A copy of it had been circulated with the agenda.

The Council would need to determine its own priorities in respect of specific services that it would like Great South to deliver. However, with only a sum of \$60,000 set aside for contract-type services, the Council needed to be somewhat modest in its expectations.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the Council receive and endorse the letter of expectation forwarded to Great South.

2020/14

The meeting concluded at 5.30pm