

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, James Cumming Wing, 10C Ardwick Street, Gore, on Monday 23 March 2020, at 4.10pm

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

Cr Dickson attended the meeting via teleconference.

In attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager Regulatory and Community Services (Mr Ian Davidson-Watts), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones) and Communications-Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken).

1. APPOINTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE (SC2621)

A memo from the Chief Executive had been tabled at the meeting following the Prime Minister's announcement earlier in the afternoon that the country would move to alert level 4 on its COVID-19 pandemic scale which would seriously inhibit the ability of the Council to conduct meetings in the normal manner. Level 4 invoked a national lockdown. It was likely that the Council would be forced to meet in a virtual capacity via Zoom which would imperil the ability for the Council to make decisions in a legally robust manner. Clause 25(a) of schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 allowed elected members to attend meetings via audio or audio visual link. However, that provision made clear that participating in the meeting did not count as being present for the purpose of constituting a quorum of the Council which was defined under clause 23 of schedule 7.

His Worship said he was very supportive of the measures implemented by the Government earlier in the afternoon.

Cr Highsted said in terms of voting, was it actioned through Zoom or by those physically present. The Chief Executive said those who were at the meeting could vote. Cr Highsted asked if it was preferred that Councillors attend physically at any meeting or should they link in by Zoom. His Worship said as long as it was safe for Councillors to visit, then he encouraged them to attend meetings in person.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr McPhail, THAT the Council establish an Emergency Committee comprising the Mayor and all Councillors to

operate and make key decisions for the Council during the period in which a level 4 COVID-19 pandemic alert status is in place,

THAT the Committee be given the power to exercise all Council functions other than those that cannot be delegated pursuant to clause 32 of schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002,

THAT it be noted that the quorum for the Emergency Committee will be two members including the Chair, with both members being physically present at the meeting,

AND THAT the need for continuation of the Emergency Committee be reviewed when the country or Gore District Council area specifically, moves down from its level 4 alert status.

2020/28

The meeting concluded at 4.18pm