

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, James Cumming Wing, 10C Ardwick Street, Gore on Tuesday 13 October 2020, at 4.05pm

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

In attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), General Manager Regulatory and Community Services (Mrs Rebecca Tayler), Chief Financial Officer (Ms Lornae Straith), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Communications-Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Rooding Asset Manager (Mr Peter Standring), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Project Manager Infrastructure (Mr Hashem Ramezan-zadeh) and Graduate Planner (Leigh Clutterbuck Young) and one member of the public in the gallery.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr N Grant, **THAT** the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 8 September 2020, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

2. URGENT LATE BUSINESS

His Worship advised there was an item of urgent late business to be considered in committee. It related to the public consultation process for the wastewater discharge consent renewals.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Phillips, **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.

2020/121

3. SPORT NEW ZEALAND RURAL TRAVEL FUND

A copy of the report from the Rural NZ Rural Travel Fund Sub-Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2020 had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dickson, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT the information be received.

2020/122

4. RURAL SPECIAL FUND (SC2947)

A copy of the report from the Rural Special Fund Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4 September 2020 had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr MacDonell, seconded by Cr McPhail, THAT the information be received.

2020/123

5. NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RATE REVIEW (SC2773)

A report had been received from the Roothing Asset Manager providing options for improvements to the level of service on the Gore roading network using the recent increase in funding received from the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) that would commence from the 2021-22 financial year. In September, the Council received notice that its Financial Assistance Rate (FAR) would increase from 55% to 59%.

The funding increase would provide enhanced outcomes on the network and several activities would be affected, enabling the Council to address several issues that had been highlighted in the recent resident satisfaction survey. Activity areas that were considered for enhanced funding included signage upgrades, "walk and roll", structure replacements, level crossings, dust suppression, metalling, Streets Alive improvements, safety improvements, resurfacing, seal extensions and footpaths.

Cr Gardyne asked how much difference increasing the rural gravelling budget by 100k would make. The Manager advised it would get the Council to about where it needed to be. It was a significant increase and the cost of sourcing the material was also increasing.

Cr D Grant queried the provision for permanent installations for the Streets Alive project despite the Council still to trial options. His Worship said the trials had to happen before anything became permanent. The assumption was made there would be some permanent structures in place. Cr D Grant said no decision had been made on any of the Streets Alive project options. The Chief Executive said it was a possibility of there being improvements and having funding allocated. Given Cr Gardyne's comment about 100k being enough for gravel he wondered if the amounts could be set for year 1 and then reassessed for future years. Cr Gardyne said the Council had been led to believe the Council's share would be funded by 100k from the footpath

budget and it was now being asked for another 60k. The Manager said there would be a number of trials undertaken and some of the installations such as street art etc would be funded from the project budget. A lot of the funding was for trial work. Cr Gardyne thought the Council had been misled and that the NZTA funding would cover the whole project. He thought the 900k was actually to do the job not just for trials. In response to the Chief Executive, the Manager advised if the funding allocated to Gore was not fully spent it would be reallocated to other areas in the country.

Cr McPhail expected the metalling improvements could be reviewed after 12 months.

Cr Dickson asked how many bridges there were in the district that did not meet the heavy load weights which were an impediment to farmers and rural transport companies. The Manager said there were about 21.

Cr Phillips asked if there would be a project budget for Streets Alive once the trials had been completed. He was concerned the Roading Manager may come back to the Council for additional funding. The Manager said the proposed 60k allocation may or may not happen. The Council also had a drainage renewal fund and footpath renewal programme, some of which could be used for improvements identified. His Worship said when the community was asked what it wanted there needed to be provision made in the budgets to account for those. Engagement with the community was fantastic but it threw up issues that the Council would need to grasp.

Cr Gardyne still thought the project had been misleading and thought the 900k should cover the majority of the work required.

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

AND THAT the Council agree to the proposed areas of increased investment with a review of allocations after the first year, ie 2022-2023.

2020/124

Crs Gardyne, Phillips, D Grant and N Grant voted against the motion.

6. OTAGO/SOUTHLAND WATER COLLABORATION (SC2957)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that over the past few weeks, Mayoral Forums in Southland and Otago had met jointly and separately to discuss the means by which an investigation into the feasibility of a shared service for 3 Waters in Otago and Southland could be meaningfully and expeditiously advanced. A paper had been prepared, the principal purpose of which was to seek approval to secure the appointment of an Interim Programme Director in order that momentum with the investigation could be achieved. A copy of the paper had been circulated with the agenda. It recommended the appointment of Mr Matt Russell, currently Group Manager Services and Assets at the Southland District Council to serve in the

role of Interim Programme Director. The recommendation was approved by separate meetings of the two Mayoral Forums on 25 September.

Cr Gardyne said the forthcoming national election would determine who set the rules. He thought it may be pre-emptive. He asked if the Council would get a voice at the table or would it be implemented by the Government. His Worship said there would be a voice but he believed the Government understood the challenge of the South Island. There was a strong view that an agency needed to be smaller than covering the entire South Island. The proposal may not be confirmed. Whatever the shape of the Government was going forward, there would be change. Cr Dickson asked if the work would assess the assets under the ground. His Worship understood the programme would include an asset evaluation. The Chief Executive added it was more about analysing the quality of the asset. Each Council used different methodologies. The Interim Director was not in a position to undertake an asset assessment for each Council. Cr Dickson asked if the asset database would be improved. The General Manager Infrastructure said staff were continuously reviewing the data it had captured. The Chief Executive said at the previous Council meeting, a decision was made to invest a sizable sum in CCTV assessment of the water infrastructure.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr McPhail, THAT the paper from the Mayoral Forum Advisors on the proposed appointment of Mr Matt Russell as Interim Programme Director for the Otago/Southland 3 Waters investigation, be noted and endorsed.

2020/125

7. ALLOCATION OF THREE WATERS SERVICE STIMULUS FUNDING (SC2957)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive following a report to the September Council meeting in regard to the distribution of stimulus funding that the Council was due to receive from the Government following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) pertaining to 3 Waters reform. The Council had been advised that following negotiations between the Southland region's Chief Executives, the Council could expect to receive a total of \$2,707,702 of stimulus funding in respect of phase one of the three-phase funding and analysis programme in relation to the reforms.

The resolution of the Council included an amount of \$57,702 being allocated to a proposed Otago/Southland regional study on the potential for some form of shared service for 3 Waters being embarked on in anticipation of significant central Government reform. The amount of \$57,702 had been based on a budget of \$1 million. Since that time, the combined Mayoral Forums of Otago and Southland had met to further consider and refine the project. Discussions resulted in a total budget of \$2 million being determined which was inclusive of funding already received for a regional study of \$375,000. The total amount of regional stimulus funding therefore that would be allocated to the investigation of a potential 3 Waters shared service within the Otago/Southland region would be \$1,625,000. A table highlighting the

respective contributions of each participating Council in the Otago/Southland regions had been circulated with the agenda.

The increase in project budget had necessitated a slight amendment to the stimulus package delivery plan that the Council approved for submission to the Department of Internal Affairs at its last meeting. The increase in contribution to regional collaboration of \$34,365 had been accommodated by reducing the amount allocated for the renewal of the Wigan Street wastewater main by a similar amount. The Gore District's contribution would increase from \$57,702 to \$92,067.

Cr N Grant asked why the Wigan Street main was being chosen. From his perspective, it was part of the main trunk and an important asset. His Worship asked if staff were comfortable that the funding allocated was sufficient to complete the job. The 3 Waters Asset Manager said the extra funding could be taken from the CCTV work. He was not expecting the \$1.89 million allocated to replace the full length of the Wigan Street pipeline. Once tender prices were received for the initial project, staff would be able to determine how much else could be completed. The Wigan Street project was chosen primarily because it had a high value whereas to take 34k from a 600k CCTV project would diminish the value received. Cr McPhail said the Council needed to place its trust in the staff who were recommending the approach. Cr Phillips said the CCTV work was vitally important as it would guarantee what level of infrastructure improvements would be needed in the future. Cr MacDonell concurred.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr McPhail, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the Council endorse and approve the amendment of the 3 Waters stimulus funding package delivery plan to increase the allocation to the Otago/Southland 3 Waters investigation from \$57,702 to \$92,067 and a consequential reduction of the amount allocated to the Wigan Street wastewater main from \$1.925 million to \$1.891 million.

2020/126

8. STAFF WARRANT AND AUTHORISATION (P/F)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that the Council's new General Manager Regulatory and Community Services, Mrs Rebecca Tayler had commenced duties on Monday 5 October. In order for her to carry out relevant enforcement duties under the Local Government Act 2002, the Council needed to approve a warrant to that effect. A schedule of delegations under the Resource Management Act had been circulated with the agenda.

His Worship extended a welcome to Mrs Tayler in her new role.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Phillips, THAT the Council appoint and authorise its General Manager Regulatory and Community Services, Mrs Rebecca Tayler as an Enforcement Officer under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2002,

THAT the authorisation and warrant enable her to carry out any and all of the functions and powers of an Enforcement Officer under the Local Government Act 2002 in the territorial area of the Gore District in relation to offences under the Act including, without limitation:

- 1. Offences against bylaws made under the Act;**
- 2. Infringement offences provided for by regulations made under section 259 of the Act;**
- 3. Part 8 of the Act (regulatory, enforcement and coercive powers of local authority); and**
- 4. Part 9 of the Act (offences, penalties, infringement offences and legal proceedings).**

AND THAT pursuant to section 34A(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Council make delegations to the General Manager Regulatory and Community Services, as set out in the schedule circulated with the agenda.

2020/127

9. MAYORS' TASKFORCE FOR JOBS – "CLOSING THE GAPS" FUNDING INITIATIVE (SC2806)

A memo from His Worship the Mayor had been received advising that in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) had developed the Industry Partnerships, Skills for Industry – MTFJ Community Recovery Programme. Key stakeholders within the Gore District had identified a framework to meet employment needs of the community utilising the MTFJ community response funding. An application was made to the programme and the Council had been awarded \$500,000 in funding to directly support up to 35 youth who were not in education, employment or training and 15 displaced workers (through Covid-19) into jobs. The programme would also work with local businesses to determine and enable their employment requirements.

Funds would be held and managed by the Council and a strategic partnership had been developed with the Community Networking Trust. The Council would employ a Coordinator for a fixed term period until 30 June 2021.

The Council and the new Community Strategy Manager would have oversight of the delivery of the programme and would report to the Community and Strategy Committee.

His Worship added if the programme was successful there was an opportunity for further funding to be provided.

RESOLVED on the motion of His Worship the Mayor, seconded by Cr Dickson, THAT the information be received.

2020/128

Cr MacDonell questioned why the Council needed to go into committee for the Elizabeth Street stormwater separation project. His Worship said it was a fundamental decision the Council had to make about the proposal. The Chief Executive added the item had previously been considered in committee and residents of the affected area had not yet been consulted. It was important to consult with the residents before reading about the project in the paper. His Worship said what the Council would be considering in committee would be the “direction of travel” and once that had been determined then public involvement and engagement would be to the forefront. Cr MacDonell said he received criticism about rural roads and the Council holding “secret meetings.”

The meeting concluded at 4.53pm