

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

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

**In attendance** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), Chief Financial Officer (Ms Lornae Straith), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Communications-Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Library Manager (Ms Lorraine Weston-Webb), District Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Facilities Administration Officer (Mr Neil Mair) and one member of the public in the gallery.

**Apology** Cr Highsted apologised for absence.

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## 1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Dickson, seconded by Cr Reid, **THAT** the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 10 October 2020, 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 McPhail, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Community Strategy Committee, held on Wednesday 4 November 2020, 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 N Grant, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Community Strategy Committee, held on Wednesday 4 November 2020, as presented, be ratified.

### Clause 2 - Streets Alive (SC2941)

Cr D Grant referred to a query from Cr MacDonell at the conclusion of the previous Council meeting about the need to go into committee for the Elizabeth Street stormwater separation project. He noted the Chief Executive had advised it had

previously been considered in committee and it was important to consult with the residents before reading about the project in the paper.

On 5 November, the Southland Times reported trials for the Streets Alive project would be commenced in the New Year stating that initiatives may include pedestrianisation of parts of the CBD. He had had a number of businesses and building owners asking what had been going on. No-one had been consulted. Consultation was a fantastic way of getting things done but he thought the project could be a step too far.

His Worship said the report in the paper was not generated by the Council. He understood that consultation with business owners and occupiers would be undertaken before any work was commenced.

Cr D Grant referred again to the Chief Executive's statement about residents of affected areas being consulted before any work was made public. The Streets Alive project had been considered at a public meeting and specifically named Irk Street. He asked if consultation should not occur before any trials were undertaken. His Worship asked where in the record of the meeting specified Irk Street. It was fair to say there had been a lot of discussions around making the CBD a friendlier place for people to visit.

The Chief Executive said the Elizabeth Street proposal was a definitive proposal that the Council had positioned itself to put in place it was about to move into that space before realising it needed to be confirmed in private prior to alerting the residents of its thinking. Streets Alive was a public process in terms of inviting members of the public to consider the possibilities. Because it was going to be trialled he felt it was implicit that consultation with businesses and owners would occur before the trials were implemented. A trial was just that and depending on the feedback, the Council could then make an informed decision about the future. It had been a public process from the outset.

His Worship said any particular area that would be affected by any change would be subject to a lot of discussion with affected parties and there would be trials that could be altered as time went on. It was not something that would be done without consulting the affected parties.

Cr McPhail said his understanding was the community group that had been established may include people who had businesses in Irk Street. The report provided at the meeting was to inform the Council of progress made. There were a number of business people in the community who had attended the public meetings and workshops. It was still in a trial environment.

His Worship said it was important to emphasise before and during any process, that affected parties needed to be engaged with.

*The General Manager Regulatory and Community Services attended from 4.17pm*

Cr Davis also felt it was important for people to be forewarned about any change and any business or person affected needed to be engaged with. His Worship agreed it was vital that the Council engage with any affected party.

Cr Reid said the engagement sessions held had included business owners and there had only been a few attend. Her understanding was that there would definitely be engagement with business people before the trials were implemented. His Worship said it was important to remember that for Streets Alive to succeed there needed to be active engagement and any idea to be considered and trialled if necessary.

**Cr D Grant moved as an amendment, THAT properties within the vicinity of the proposed streets affected by the Streets Alive project be subject to separate engagement before any trial proceeds.**

**The amendment was seconded by Cr MacDonell.**

**The amendment was put and it was put and it was carried. The amendment became the motion, was put and it was carried.**

**2020/132**

## **2. URGENT LATE BUSINESS**

His Worship advised there was an item of urgent late business to be considered. It related to the Matura Community Board report which had been inadvertently omitted from the agenda. There was also a Matura Community Board report to be considered in committee.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Bolger, 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 at the conclusion of the meeting and also in committee.**

**2020/133**

## **3. SPORT SOUTHLAND – ANNUAL REPORT (SC2720)**

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager together with a copy of the annual operational report for the year ending 30 June 2020 from Sport Southland.

Cr Reid said it was good report and was encouraged to read of the possibility of another bike event being held during the winter.

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

**2020/134**

4. GREAT SOUTH LETTER OF EXPECTATION 2021-2022 (SC2586)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a Letter of Expectation that had been prepared by the Invercargill City and Southland District Councils under the signature of the Chair of the Southland Mayoral Forum, Mayor Tracy Hicks. The letter outlined the priorities for Great South in the forthcoming year. In the case of the Gore District Council, no specific purchasing intentions had been articulated at this point in time due to a wish for some analysis and feedback to be provided by the Council's new Community Strategy Manager, Anne Pullar. The intention was that the contract funding of \$60,000 allocated to Great South would continue. However, there was a clear intention that unlike last year, the expectations of the Council in regard to some specific deliverables would be better articulated given that Great South had now had time to settle as a new organisation.

A report from the Community Strategy Manager would be provided in the near future centring on specific initiatives and services that the Council could expect from Great South.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr MacDonell, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the Letter of Expectation forwarded to Great South be received and noted.**

**2020/135**

5. STAFF WARRANTS – ANIMAL CONTROL (P/F)

A memo had been received from the Administration Manager advising that the Council had recently appointed new part-time Animal Control Officers who would provide after-hours cover on a three weekly roster. In order to undertake their duties, the officers were required to be warranted under the Dog Control Act 1996. The new officers were Mrs Rachel Buchanan and Mrs Michelle Cleaver. In addition, K2 Contracting had agreed to provide staff to assist with providing the service. The Chief Executive added that the Council's General Manager Regulatory and Community Services, Mrs Rebecca Tayler, also needed to be included on the list.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT the Council appoint and authorise the following persons as an Animal Control Officer to undertake various enforcement related duties in line with this role for the Council:**

**Rebecca Tayler  
Rachel Buchanan  
Michelle Cleaver  
Ken Adams  
Craig Ross  
Ryan Kirk  
David Bolger  
Chris Hill  
Simon Highsted  
Natasha Fillbrook**

6. PREDATOR FREE SOUTHLAND – ACTION PLAN 2020-2025 (SC2332)

A report had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager updating the Council on progress of the Predator Free Southland governance group. The project was a Southland wide initiative with the aim of reaching the Government's predator free 20509 (PF2020) target.

In the first year of operation, Predator Free Southland had delivered all that was expected of it under the stellar leadership of Dr Ini Gunn. Unfortunately, Dr Gunn had not been able to renew her contract with the group and recruitment of a replacement coordinator was currently underway.

A copy of the Predator Free Southland action plan 2020-2025 had been circulated with the agenda for the Council's information.

Cr Dickson declared an interest as Chair of the Forest Hill group. The work undertaken by Dr Gunn had been very good. She asked if there was any opportunity to apply for Government funding through the Jobs for Nature initiative to assist with predator control at Dolamore Park. The Manager advised he had had discussions recently with Hokonui Rununga on the programme and would further investigate the opportunity for an application by the Council to be made.

Cr Gardyne believed it was up to the Regional Council to control predators and thought the Gore District was a poor cousin. He referred to the TB programme that had not resulted in the eradication of possums, but had cost millions of dollars. The Manager said the Gore District area was on the programme's radar for work to be undertaken in the Croydon reserve area.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said the Gore District would likely receive its funding for the Croydon reserve area within five years. The technology advancements were quite rapid and that would assist the entire programme.

Cr Dickson asked if there were any policies in place with feral cats who caused a lot of damage to birdlife. The Manager said there was nothing specific and acknowledged there were a lot of unwanted cats dumped near the urban areas in the District.

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

**AND THAT annual updates be provided to the Council in the future.**

## 7. WEST GORE PLAYGROUND CONSULTATION (SC2960)

A report had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager updating the Council on the results of an initial public and community consultation process relating to three West Gore recreation reserves and playgrounds. At its meeting on 10 April 2018, the Council had instructed staff to consult with the community on the future of three playgrounds at Merlin Place, Sword Street and Moa Place.

The consultation period opened on 15 September and closed on 14 October. Two questions had been posed – whether the reserves should be retained or the reserve status be uplifted. The second question was whether respondents believed the play equipment should be retained. A total of 51 submissions were in favour of retaining the recreation reserve status with nine opposed. Regarding the play equipment, 38 submitters were in favour of retaining the equipment and 22 against the retention – opting for disposal as a preference. A copy of the schedule of submissions received had been circulated with the agenda.

The Manager asked for the Council to hold the issue in abeyance until the December meeting. He had realised there were five of the 20 written submissions received who had requested to be heard. He asked for two Councillors to be appointed to a panel to hear the submissions and for the final report and outcome of the hearing to be considered at the December Council meeting.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT the report be held in abeyance until the December Council meeting,**

**AND THAT Crs D Grant and N Grant be appointed to a panel to hear submissions from five submitters prior to the December meeting.**

**2020/138**

## 8. FINANCIAL REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

A copy of the financial report to 30 September had been circulated with the agenda and was perused by the Council. The Chief Financial Officer advised there were a number of timing issues referenced in the report along with ramifications from COVID-19 still being experienced.

Cr MacDonell referred to the outstanding debtors and noted there were some that had been outstanding for some time. The Officer advised several were as a result of COVID-19 and all were being monitored closely. Some had been referred to debt collection.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dickson, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the financial report to 30 September be received.**

**2020/139**

9. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20 (SC2461)

A memo had been received from the Chief Financial Officer informing the Council of the final financial and non-financial results for the year ended 30 June 2020. A copy of the draft Annual Report had been circulated to the Council.

The financial statements recorded a modest surplus of \$20,000 against a budget of \$2.694 million. It was a positive result and testament to the careful financial management to minimise the effects of the flooding event in February and the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in a country-wide lockdown in late March.

The Deloitte audit team spent approximately five weeks auditing the Council's accounts and had issued a qualified audit opinion on advice from the Office of the Auditor General. The qualification was around five non-financial performance measures relating to response times in the 3 Waters activity. Deloitte could not gain confidence in the data extracted from the Council's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system for the measures. There had been a number of contributing factors to the data quality, bearing in mind it had been an extraordinary year with the flood event and COVID-19. Added to that were two General Manager vacancies and the senior Customer Services Officer departing on the eve of lockdown.

Details of the financial performance and statement of service performance had been included in a covering memo from the Officer.

Cr Gardyne found it hard to believe the number of rating units had not changed from one year to the next.

Cr MacDonell referred to interest swaps that had cost the Council money because interest rates had dropped.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr N Grant, THAT the report be received,**

**THAT the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2020 be adopted,**

**AND THAT the Chief Executive be empowered to make typographical and layout changes necessary for publishing the document.**

**2020/140**

10. CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME

A copy of the report of the meeting of the Creative Communities Sub-Committee held on 2 November 2020 had been circulated for the information of the Council.

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

**2020/141**

11. OTAGO/SOUTHLAND THREE WATERS COLLABORATION PROJECT (SC2957)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a briefing paper that had been prepared for both the Otago and Southland Mayoral Forums for consideration on 6 November. Along with the briefing paper, a work programme prepared by the interim director of the Otago/Southland Three Waters office, Mr Matt Russell had been circulated.

The Chief Executive advised since the report had been written, the Government had announced its Ministerial appointments and the Minister of Local Government portfolio remained with Hon Nanaia Mahuta.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr McPhail, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT the briefing paper and work programme as encapsulated in the documentation circulated be received and noted.**

**2020/142**

12. URGENT LATE BUSINESS - REPORT OF MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING (SC2696)

A copy of the report of the meeting of the meeting of the Mataura Community Board held on Monday 19 October had been circulated to the Council.

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

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

**2020/143**

The meeting concluded at 4.59pm