

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore on Tuesday 9 February 2021, at 4.09pm

Present His Worship the Mayor, Mr Tracy Hicks JP, Crs Bolger, Dickson, Gardyne, 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), Roading Asset Manager (Mr Peter Standring), Project Manager Infrastructure (Mr Hashem Ramezan-zadeh) and one member of the public in the gallery.

Apologies Crs Davis and D Grant apologised for absence.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

2. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ELECTORAL OFFICER (SC0306/P-F)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that the Council had appointed Electionz.com as its provider of electoral services for the 2019 triennial elections. The company proved to be a very competent performer and it was the Chief Executive's strong recommendation that the company's services be retained for the 2022 triennial elections, subject to a competitive cost being provided.

Under section 13 of the Local Electoral Act, the Council must also appoint a Deputy Electoral Officer. The position was an important one where the Council had contracted out its Electoral Officer duties to an outside agency that was domiciled outside of where the election was being conducted.

The Council's former Chief Financial Officer, Mr Luke Blackbeard performed the role of Deputy Electoral Officer at the last election. With his departure in February last year, the Council now needed to appoint a replacement. It was proposed that the General Manager Regulatory and Community Services, Mrs Rebecca Tayler be appointed as Deputy Electoral Officer.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT subject to agreement being reached on an acceptable price for fulfilment of duties as Electoral Officer, the Council approve the retention of Electionz.com as a provider of electoral services for the Gore District for the 2022 triennial elections,

THAT the Council appoint Mrs Rebecca Tayler as its Deputy Electoral Officer for the Gore District,

AND THAT a further report on the proposed price for services offered by Electionz.com for the 2022 triennial election, be submitted at a future Council meeting for ratification.

2021/02

3. THREE WATERS REFORM – UPDATE (SC3225)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive advising that late last year the Department of Internal Affairs had released a number of key documents on the proposed reform of Three Waters. Of particular note was a December 2020 Cabinet paper that contained a number of important decisions that had been made by the Government. In short, these decisions were:

- Confirming the Government's intention to progress the reforms during the current term;
- Seeking agreement to continue with the voluntary approach to the reforms setting out what could only be labelled as an ambitious reform timeline;
- Seeking agreement to earlier legislation to enable councils to take a decision on whether to continue to participate with the reforms or opt out.

A copy of the Cabinet paper had been circulated with the agenda.

The strong intent of the Government to drive reform could be seen in paragraph 121 of the Cabinet paper that set out a timetable about making decisions on the number and boundaries of new publicly-owned water entities along with other aspects of the report package in April/May this year. The critical point for Councils would occur later in the year when a decision would be required as to whether to participate in the new system and the new entities to be created.

A series of workshops were planned for March throughout New Zealand. Local Government New Zealand was organising workshops to coincide with the regular zone meetings. A workshop would be held on Wednesday 17 March in Wanaka that coincided with a joint Zone 5 and 6 South Island Local Government meeting. The

workshop would provide opportunity to discuss a range of potential options for the proposed new water service delivery arrangements. Feedback from the workshops would inform advice submitted to Ministers.

Cr Dickson said any Councils that opted out of the new regime would likely face increased costs and requirements. His Worship was aware of at least one Council that was not likely to be involved with the new regulator.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Dickson, THAT the report be received and the accompanying Cabinet paper inclusive of the Minute of Decision be received and noted.

2021/03

4. GORE WASTE MANAGEMENT (SC0689)

A report had been received from the Roading Asset Manager informing the Council of the financial impact of the current waste management kerbside collections. The District's waste management services were delivered through two WasteNet contractors. One, Contracts 550 that managed the kerbside collection and the Gore transfer station operation was undertaken by Bond Contracting. The other, Contract 650, dealt with the sorting of recycled material.

There had been a number of changes made in 2020 that impacted the District's waste management, including recyclables, changes in the kerbside collection, changes to the red and yellow bin collection regime, withdrawal from the SdE recycling contract, Covid-19, the February flood event and the extension of and renegotiation of rates for the contract with Bond Contracting. The Council had also agreed to the purchase of a rubbish compactor that would improve operational efficiency and safety at the transfer station. While general recycling had ceased, provision had been made in the community for the separate collection of glass, cardboard and aluminium cans. The increase in the landfill levy had impacted on the cost to landfill with the Waste Forum indicating its intent to raise the charge further in the future.

Graphs showing the waste quantities in the district for the past 18 months had been included in the report together with information on glass collected and waste costs. There had been a 6% increase in the total general waste collected over the past 12 months. The weight of kerbside waste had increased over the past 12 months by 23% to 230 tonnes/month. The glass bin collection data suggested there was an average of 25 tonnes per month being collected.

The Manager advised there were some figures in a table in the report that needed correcting. The compactor loan would be funded over five years and not 15, meaning an annual cost of around \$67,900. The total costs were adjusted to \$2,620,299.55.

The Chief Executive suggested the Council may be interested in establishing a Working Party to consider future waste management options.

His Worship said the issue of waste management had been topical in recent days and Gore had featured amongst that discussion. The Council could not ramp up the volume of waste and not expect any ramifications from additional costs. Continuing to do what it had always done would not provide a solution.

Cr Bolger said the overseas markets for recyclable material did not exist anymore and other options were going to be too expensive. He hoped people realised that the Council had trimmed its budget to account for that. It concerned him that central Government had not provided any financial assistance in light of changes to the recyclable markets.

His Worship noted neighbouring Councils continued to collect recycling that either went no-where or was stockpiled.

Cr Reid asked if it would help if the yellow bin went to a two monthly collection rather than once a month.

Cr Gardyne thought the transport costs should be reduced now the Council had purchased a compactor for the transfer station. He asked where the shortfall of \$288,000 would be funded from. The General Manager Infrastructure said the transport cost had been reduced from \$30 per tonne to \$22 per tonne. The Chief Executive said the Funding Policy would dictate where the deficit would be funded from. He said the costs would be absorbed by 87 or 90% of those who received the service with a small percentage in the UAGC that recognised all residents had access to the transfer station.

In response to Cr Gardyne, the General Manager said the loan was to be repaid within five years and the figure in the table on the agenda was correct. Cr Gardyne did not agree. The Chief Executive concurred with Cr Gardyne and thought the annual figure should be more like \$60,000. His Worship asked for the table to be updated with the correct figures.

Cr Dickson said the Council should be encouraging people to reduce waste and suggested there could be a regional discussion to determine how plastics and glass could be used.

Cr Bolger was the Council's representative on WasteNet. He said recycling was not the financial goldmine it had been promoted to be. It was more about recovery of costs which became very difficult as markets dried up. The other problem was the volume generated in the Southland region was not sufficient to be financially viable. There had been previous suggestions of burning plastic to generate heat and energy.

Cr Dickson said what had been done in the past was not sustainable. The old paper mill building in Mataura could be utilised as a processing centre. His Worship said the Council needed to open and alive to potential options. There were sustainable heat generation options utilised overseas that could be investigated.

Cr McPhail said the Council needed some logical input from local people about recycling and how waste should be dealt with. He would be interested in being a member of a Working Party.

Cr Highsted supported a Working Party and thought there was an opportunity to have external representation on it.

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

THAT the Council note following updated details from the table circulated with the agenda:

- The contract with Bonds was known as “Contract 550”,
- The compactor cost was \$339,663.73 to be funded by way of loan over a five year period. The annual projected cost was \$67,936.51,
- The total costs were therefore \$2,620,299.55, leaving a shortfall of \$329,599.55.

THAT the Council note the forecast expenditure for the solid waste activity of \$2,620,300 for the 2020-21 financial year and the projected deficit of \$329,600,

THAT the shortfall be funded from an appropriate provision for consideration in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan,

THAT the Council authorise the General Manager Infrastructure to discuss and negotiate with the contractor, Bond Contracts possible refinements to the waste service going forward,

AND THAT a Working Party comprising Crs McPhail, Highsted and Bolger with an option to invite external representatives as required, be established to consider waste options and alternatives that could be introduced in the next financial year.

2021/04

5. STREETS ALIVE – ACTIVATION PHASE (SC2933)

A report from the Roading Asset Manager had been received that provided an overview of the planned activations to be trialled from March-June 2021 as a key component of the Streets Alive project.

The Council had been successful in obtaining funding through the New Zealand Transport Agency’s Innovating Streets fund. One of the core aims of the fund was to transition streets to safer and more liveable spaces. The activations would begin to be rolled out in late February/early March and would remain in place until June. The trials were key to test the designs developed with the community and gather feedback on what people liked when they got to experience them. The feedback would provide

an information base for being able to recommend to the Council whether the activations should become permanent, be adopted or removed altogether.

The key themes being promoted included creative street spaces, a pedestrianised hub, easing congesting and enhancing safety, opportunities for safer road crossings, connecting spaces and wayfinding. An illustration showing a range of street activations and locations proposed to be rolled out in mid-March had been circulated with the agenda.

Ms Vivienne Lightfoot, communications consultant was in attendance at the meeting and advised a number of communications would be distributed in the next few weeks encouraging feedback from the community. His Worship added it was a trial and feedback from the community was important.

Cr Highsted referred to engagement and felt it was important to take a direct approach with property and business owners who may have trials impact on their residence or business.

Cr McPhail asked about emergency services and asked whether dialogue had been had with those services. The Roading Asset Manager confirmed there had. Cr McPhail said it was three month trial and some of the activations to be laid out may not remain permanently. He acknowledged the amount of work put in to date by staff and the community. He hoped there would be support from the community once the trials had commenced.

Cr Phillips questioned if there was an accident at an activation site, who was liable. The Manager said there were rules and regulations around all crossings and the responsibility lay with the pedestrian to be aware of the crossings. The Chief Executive said it was no different to a person who may have an accident on a roadworks site. Motorists needed to be aware of any new features on a road and take preventative measures accordingly. Streets Alive changes were no different in his view. His Worship said the funder of the trials was a large Government agency and anyone who drove a motor vehicle or walked across a road had certain responsibilities to ensure their safety. Cr Phillips said roadworks were governed by a traffic management plan. With some of the barriers to be imposed, trials would be challenging for local drivers. Education would be key. It would be interesting to see what happened when some of the streets were closed off. His Worship acknowledged his comments and expected there would be a lot of feedback from the community. It was an attempt to get the local community fit for today and the future. He thought there would be good things come out of the trial.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Reid, THAT the Council approve the trials designed to respond to the themes developed through the community co-design process as part of the Streets Alive project,

THAT staff engage directly with property owners who had changes to be installed in front of their properties,

AND THAT the Council approve the trials to occur during the period March to June 2021.

2021/05

His Worship acknowledged the efforts of staff and members of the community for what had been achieved to date.

6. REPORT OF THE MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD (SC2696)

A copy of the report of the meeting of the Mataura Community Board held on Monday 25 January had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chairman of the Community Board was in attendance and said the swimming pool building was an asset that the Board was keen to ensure was maintained. The bike park that had been established had been a huge success and attracted families. The Board felt the pool building could be utilised in conjunction with special occasions held at the bike park.

Cr Highsted had been part of the Working Party to consider the redevelopment of Tulloch Park. He was confused about what the strategy for the pool building was. Only stage 1 of the redevelopment plan had been completed. He wanted to understand what the plan may be, what it would cost and who would pay. His Worship thought perhaps the Working Party may need to be reactivated. Cr Highsted suggested it would be useful for the Council to meet with the Community Board and be clear about what the intentions were.

Cr Phillips said the pool building had initially been factored into stage 1 of the development plan but due to security concerns it was discounted. His concern at the Board meeting was why the building would be left to become derelict. Cr Highsted had asked who would pay and he asked why the Board was always asked where the money would come from to do any work. His Worship did not agree with the comment that the pool building would become derelict. It needed to be sorted. His understanding when the Council allocated \$500,000 for recreational facilities in Mataura when the pool was closed, was that it would be used to access other community funding. The Council should be helping the Board access other community funding.

His Worship said since the formation of the Community Board, the Council had been incredibly supportive of it. In terms of the recommendation about the swimming pool building, it needed refining. He supported the re-activation of the Working Party. Cr Phillips disagreed. The Board had made a recommendation to the Council for costs to fill in the pool tank and tidy the building up and make it watertight. His Worship asked what the building would be used for and what the costs would be. Cr Phillips said filling the tank and making it watertight would be a start. His Worship said the bike track was fantastic. Accessing the old pool building was an obvious next step, but Councillors needed to have a clear understanding of what that looked like. The Council had already committed \$500,000 and it needed to be the basis of applications to raise

the rest of the funding needed rather than coming from ratepayers. It needed to piggy-back on investments already made.

Mr Taylor said the Board was not coming to the Council for funding to do the work. There had been a couple of estimates received that were poles apart. The Board knew it would be used by people and for indoor training through the winter by sports clubs. There was interest in the community that it would be used.

Cr McPhail was interested in knowing the cost of undertaking the work. His Worship suggested a meeting be held between the Council and Community Board in Matura to discuss the future of the pool building.

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

THAT with the exception of clause 4 – future of Matura swimming pool building, the recommendations contained in the report be ratified,

AND THAT in respect of clause 4 – future of Matura swimming pool building, the Council and Community Board meet to discuss options for its retention.

2021/06

7. POTENTIAL SURPLUS PROPERTY SUBCOMMITTEE – DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (SC3242)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive following a Council workshop held in late 2020 to consider a reviewed estimate of cost for the redevelopment of the James Cumming Wing for library and community use. Some discussion had been held on potential sources of funding to offset the increases in cost from what had been originally anticipated. The Chief Executive had been instructed to establish a sub-committee of the Council in order that the investigative work could be formally instituted. A copy of draft Terms of Reference had been circulated with the agenda.

Crs Gardyne, MacDonell, N Grant, Phillips and Highsted were nominated as members.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT the Council approve the establishment of a potential Surplus Property Sub-Committee as outlined in the Terms of Reference circulated,

AND THAT Crs Gardyne, MacDonell, N Grant, Phillips and Highsted be appointed as members.

2021/07

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Dickson, THAT Cr Gardyne be appointed Chair of the Subcommittee.

2021/08

8. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 31 DECEMBER 2020

A financial report to 31 December 2020 had been circulated by the Chief Financial Officer.

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

2021/09

The meeting concluded at 5.27pm