

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 16 May 2017, at 7.36pm

Present His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Crs Beale, Bolger, Davis, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant, P Grant, Highsted, Phillips, Reid and Sharp.

In Attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory and Planning (Dr Ian Davidson-Watts), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standring), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Communications/Promotions Manager (Sonia Gerken), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss) and the Chairman of the Mataura Community Board (Mr Alan Taylor).

His Worship called for any conflicts of interest.

Cr P Grant declared a conflict with clause 10 – Gore Kids Hub – request for financial assistance.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Phillips, **THAT** the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 4 April 2017, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Beale, seconded by Cr D Grant, **THAT** the report of the ordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee, held on Wednesday 26 April 2017, 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 Highsted, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee, held on Wednesday 26 April 2017, as presented, be ratified.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Beale, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Operations Committee, held on Wednesday 26 April 2017, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr D Grant, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Operations Committee, held on Wednesday 26 April 2017, as presented, be ratified.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Reid, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Regulatory and Planning Committee, held on Wednesday 26 April 2017, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Bolger, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Regulatory and Planning Committee, held on Wednesday 26 April 2017, as presented, be ratified.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr D Grant, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on Wednesday 26 April 2017, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Reid, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on Wednesday 26 April 2017, as presented, be ratified.

2. YOUTH COUNCIL

A copy of the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 6 March had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chairperson, Josh Highsted was in attendance at the meeting. He addressed the Council and advised events that would be run to celebrate Youth Week. Pink Shirt Day would be celebrated on Friday 26 May, a night market would be held on Saturday 27 May and a free movie on Sunday afternoon in support of the Foodbank and local SPCA.

J Highsted departed the meeting at 7.46pm

3. SOUTHLAND SHARED SERVICES FORUM

A copy of the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Southland Shared Services Forum held on Friday 10 February 2017 had been circulated with the agenda.

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

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4. FREEDOM CAMPING IN GORE DISTRICT (SC1877)

A memo had been received from the General Manager Regulatory and Planning outlining issues around freedom camping in New Zealand being a regular feature in national and local press. Due to increasing concerns and reporting environmental problems arising from freedom campers, particularly from waste issues, the Government introduced the Freedom Camping Act 2011 to enable territorial authorities and the Department of Conservation to develop legislative tools (eg bylaws) to manage issues around freedom camping in their respective areas.

It was recognised that freedom camping caused significant problems in hotspots in neighbouring districts and the Council remained committed to ensuring it had a joined up approach. The review of freedom camping issues had involved the collation of data from complaints and customer registers since 2013. The register identified three matters related to freedom camping since 2013, and no relevant issues prior to 2013. Of the three, only one related to freedom camping causing an environmental problem.

Based on the information available, it had been concluded that whilst freedom camping did occur in the District, the available evidence suggested that the activity was relatively low level and any environmental impact was insignificant when compared to other areas in the South Island.

Two options were outlined – one being the proactive management of the provision of information and advice and the second, the introduction of a Freedom Camping Bylaw.

In response to Cr Highsted, the General Manager said a Bylaw could be initiated relatively quickly if the need arose.

His Worship felt the issue should be referred to as responsible camping rather than freedom, but the Council needed to be alive to the fact that freedom camping caused significant issues in neighbouring Council areas.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the Council approve option 1 – the proactive management of the provision of information and advice for freedom/responsible campers, along with the development of a monitoring and annual reporting programme of this issue to the Council.

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5. REVIEW AND UPDATE OF STAFF WARRANTS (P/F)

A memo had been received from the General Manager Regulatory and Planning together with a schedule of staff who required updated warrants for regulatory and enforcement functions under the Local Government Act 2002 and other relevant acts.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the Council appoint and authorise the following staff to undertake various enforcement duties:

- David McKewen, Rachel Buchanan and Carol Miller, Animal Control Officers
- Rowena Burnby, Dog Control Administrator
- Frances Shepherd, senior Regulatory Officer
- Virginia Carter, Parking Officer
- Russell Paterson, Building Control Manager
- Tony Osborne, Trevor Gilder and John Hunter, Building Control Officers
- Ian Davidson-Watts, General Manager Regulatory and Planning
- Ramesh Sharma, General Manager Infrastructure
- Peter Standing, Transport Manager
- Matt Bayliss, 3 Waters Asset Manager
- Lynley Blythe, Regulatory Administrator
- Emma Williams, Policy and Planning Officer
- Rosie Given, Resource Management Planner
- Graham Hill and Paul Williamson, Roading Officers; and
- Donique Weatherburn, Assets Officer

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6. ANNUAL PLAN 2018 FEEDBACK (SC1480)

A memo had been received from the Chief Financial Officer advising that the annual plan 2018 update document had been distributed to all ratepayers prior to Easter and by the deadline of 3 May 2017 feedback from two groups had been received. Copies of the feedback from CCS Disability Action and Federated Farmers had been circulated with the agenda.

The adoption of the final Annual Plan 2018 document would form part of the agenda for the meeting on 27 June. After the Annual Plan had been adopted, the Council could set the rates for the 2017/18 financial year.

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

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7. GORE KIDS HUB – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (SC1619)

Nine members representing the Gore Kids Hub Trust were in attendance at the meeting.

Cr P Grant declared an interest, withdrew from the table and did not take part in any discussion.

A memo from the Chief Executive had been circulated together with a request and commentary from the Gore Kids Hub Committee. The Kids Hub was seeking an additional grant of \$50,000 from the Council towards the public playground which was estimated to cost \$380,020. The playground would be on Council land and would be fully accessible to the public and in particular the recreational needs of 0-12 year olds. As at 1 May, the group had raised \$192,841 and required a further \$187,179.

The Chief Executive advised there was an error in his report on page 63 of the agenda. In paragraph three, it was incorrectly reported that the Council had granted \$50,000 for the construction stage of the Hub when the grant was in fact for the playground stage.

His Worship felt the playground would complement the Kids Hub and also the Council's multisports complex. He said there had been comments about placement of the playground, but he felt it would be logical as the Council had favoured the current siting of the Kids Hub building.

Cr Reid said she admired the work that had gone into establishing the Kids Hub. She noted the Matura Licensing Trust was intending to contribute \$50,000 but returning funds to the community was part of its charter. The Council had already contributed \$80,000 towards the project.

His Worship said he wanted to see the project completed, as most of the community did.

Cr Highsted agreed the location was not ideal, but the Council had determined the location of the Kids Hub. Local children would hunt out the playground and it linked nicely with the multisports complex. He focused on the public playground aspect of the proposal and he did not want to punish the Kids Hub Trust for having been so successful to date. The Council's input would equate to only 26% of the total cost of the playground. He felt the Council owed it to the community and the Kids Hub to have the project finished.

Cr D Grant said his feedback from the public suggested that the Kids Hub had had enough funding. The Council was elected to represent the public. The Council wanted to attract new people to the District and a state of the art playground was attractive. If the recommendation was passed, he was keen to get public consultation underway for disposing of the reserves in Sword Street, Moa Place and Merlin Place.

Cr Phillips had viewed the three reserve areas and the Hub and favoured supporting the grant.

Cr Beale could not recall any group having received \$50,000 from the Council and then returning six months later asking for another \$50,000. The extra grant would almost deplete the reserve account.

Cr Gardyne had thought hard about it, and felt if the Council disposed of two of the three surplus playgrounds he would be comfortable with supporting it.

His Worship said the consultation process was unknown at this point.

Cr Davis would be comfortable with a grant if footpaths and associated plantings were included.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised there were no plans at this stage for pathways to link the playground with the multisports complex. He thought it may cost around \$15,000 for a pathway.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Manager said the area was mown with a heavier type of machinery, but a compacted gravel could be utilised for a pathway.

The Chief Executive said the pathway was an opportunity for the wider community to make something child-centric and complement the unique equipment in the playground. There may be a lot of community effort that could go into something quite different.

Cr Dickson understood the grant would not impact on rates and would support other playgrounds being sold off.

Cr Sharp wanted to ensure the funds raised from surplus playgrounds go back into the recreation reserve account.

The Chief Financial Officer said the Council's Financial Policy allowed funds from the sale of recreation reserves to go towards the repayment of debt or it could be held in a specific account.

Cr Bolger had initially opposed supporting the Kids Hub, and believed he had to fit in with the Council's decision to support the Hub. The Kids Hub had done a great job fundraising.

Cr Reid would like to see the reserve areas left as green space at least.

His Worship said the public consultation would assist with determining what may occur with them.

Cr Highsted said he was not banking on the reserve account being bolstered by any sale of reserves if the Council advanced the grant requested.

Cr Phillips said the Kids Hub was a District asset and the Council needed to think about the future and what was required.

His Worship said the Council had had a mature discussion about the issue. He knew it was a difficult one for some Councillors to debate.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the Council approve the request of the Kids Hub Trust for a further grant of \$50,000 to enable the public playground adjacent to the Gore Kids Hub building to be completed,

THAT the Council note that the grant of \$50,000 will be financed from the Council's recreational reserve fund and will only be paid once all fundraising targets have been met,

AND THAT the Council note that a public consultation process will be instigated to dispose of Council recreational reserves in Sword Street, Moa Place and Merlin Place/Broughton Street in anticipation of the completion of the new public playground adjacent to the Kids Hub complex.

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Crs Beale and Reid voted against the motion and asked for their votes to be recorded.

The Kids Hub representatives departed the meeting at 8.25pm

8. SOUTHLAND WARM HOMES TRUST – ANNUAL REPORT (SC1658)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a copy of the Southland Warm Homes Trust annual report for the year ending 30 June 2016. Since 2008, the Council had advanced an annual grant of \$15,000 to the Trust to assist with the installation of heating and insulation in older homes. Since the scheme began, a total of 1050 houses in the Gore District had received subsidised insulation.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the annual report of the Southland Warm Homes Trust for the year ended 30 June 2016 be received.

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The Mataura Community Board Chairman departed the meeting at 8.26pm

9. REMUNERATION AUTHORITY – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT (SC1529)

A report had been received from the Chief Executive, together with a consultation document from the Remuneration Authority released in anticipation of developing a new determination for the remuneration of elected members due to take effect from 1 July 2017. The paper was divided into two parts. The first section centred on refinements to the current remuneration system for elected members which could be introduced as early as 1 July 2017. In order for those changes to come into effect, feedback was sought by 19 June. The changes covered the following areas:

- Remuneration for district plan hearings;
- Leave of absence;
- Development of standardised expense policy;
- Provision of allowances for information and communications technology; and
- Travel and mileage allowances.

The Council gave due consideration to the options detailed.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the Remuneration Authority consultation document governing local government elected member remuneration be received,

THAT the Council provide responses to the questions posed in section 1 of the paper for feedback to the Authority, as follows:

- **Remuneration for district plan hearings - supported**
- **Leave of absence – supported**
- **Development of standardised expense policy – supported**
- **Provision of allowances for information and communications technology - supported**
- **Travel and mileage allowances – supported subject to a change to the 30km rule being reduced to 15km.**

AND THAT a workshop be scheduled to consider the issues raised in section 2 of the consultation paper.

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The meeting concluded at 8.45pm