

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Thursday 19 September 2019, at 5.30pm

Present His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Crs Bolger, Beale (from 5.46pm), Davis, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant, P Grant, Highsted, Phillips, Reid and Sharp.

In attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager Regulatory and Community Services (Mr Ian Davidson-Watts), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Communications-Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson) and Councillor-elect Stewart MacDonell in the gallery.

Apology Cr Beale apologised for lateness.

His Worship acknowledged the work done over a number of terms by Councillors who were standing down at the October elections. This meeting would be their final meeting. He had a certificate for each of the Councillors who were not standing for re-election. One had served for 15 years and the other two for 12 years. He thanked Crs Beale, P Grant and Sharp for their contributions.

His Worship presented a certificate to Cr P Grant who said he had enjoyed every minute of his Council career. Part of him did not want to go, but he felt it was better to do so. He thanked the staff and said he had enjoyed working with them. He wished the Councillors who were standing for re-election all the best.

His Worship presented a certificate to Cr Sharp. Cr Sharp said it was a surprise to get the certificate and that he had enjoyed most of his time on the Council.

His Worship acknowledged the attendance of Stewart MacDonell at the meeting who had been elected unopposed in the Kaiwera-Waimumu Ward.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 13 August 2019, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr Reid, **THAT** the report of the ordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee, held on Tuesday 3 September 2019, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Davis, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee, held on Tuesday 3 September 2019, as presented, be ratified.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr P Grant, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Regulatory and Planning Committee, held on Tuesday 3 September 2019, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Gardyne, seconded by Cr Reid, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Regulatory and Planning Committee, held on Tuesday 3 September 2019, as presented, be ratified.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Dickson, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Operations Committee, held on Tuesday 3 September 2019, 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 Reid, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Operations Committee, held on Tuesday 3 September 2019, as presented, be ratified.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Phillips, **THAT** the report of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on Tuesday 3 September 2019, 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 Phillips, **THAT** the recommendations contained within the report of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on Tuesday 3 September 2019, as presented, be ratified.

2. URGENT LATE BUSINESS

Cr Bolger advised there had been concerns raised about the whereabouts of the Mayoral hat. He said it needed to be considered under urgency as the matter had been raised after the agenda had been compiled. The Mayoral hat had been locked away for some time and had rarely if ever been seen. He felt the reputation of His Worship had been impuned. He thought Councillors were keen for him to rise to defend the Mayor. He asked that the hat be produced and a photograph taken of His Worship wearing it.

Cr Bolger moved THAT the matter be considered under urgency.

The motion was seconded by Cr Davis.

Cr P Grant suggested the photograph be taken now.

His Worship said the threshold for urgent late business was high and he questioned whether that had been met. He said the hat had been out of his sight for some time. He was in the hands of the Council.

Cr Beale attended the meeting at 5.46pm

The motion was put and it was carried.

2019/94

The Chief Executive produced the Mayoral hat and His Worship agreed to a photograph being taken.

The meeting adjourned at 5.48pm and resumed at 5.53pm

His Worship asked if there was any other urgent late business.

Cr Gardyne asked if there should be some discussion about the proposed water reforms given submissions closed in mid-October.

His Worship understood the comments, however, he did not think the Council was properly informed to have a discussion at the meeting. He, the Chief Executive and Cr Dickson would be attending a forum on Tuesday 24 September about the proposed reforms. He added the submission period had been extended.

Cr P Grant suggested adding the issue to the extraordinary Council meeting scheduled for 8 October.

The Chief Executive confirmed a response to the water reforms from the Council could be included on that agenda.

3. YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Councillors Hamish Goatley, Laura Heads, Leah Murray and Natasha Bedwell were in attendance and gave an update on Youth Council activities.

A trial mud run had been held on 7 September and was very successful. It was a joint event with Sport Southland and Camp Columba. A full event would be held in 2020. Sport Southland was keen to partner with the Youth Council in future mud runs. An opening and closing karakia had been developed for each formal Youth Council meeting. Environment Southland's Education Officer had met with the Youth Council and had been involved with the Maitai River clean-up on 14 September as part of Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week. Environment Southland was keen to be involved as a sponsor for the environmental category at the Youth Awards.

Research was continuing about issues facing young people in the Gore District as part of a legacy project. Work was continuing on a family friendly brochure about events and activities in the District. It was hoped to have the pamphlet available in time for the 2019 Christmas holidays.

His Worship thanked the Youth Council for their time and enthusiasm over the year. The Council had appreciated the approach taken to inform it about the activities undertaken.

Cr P Grant congratulated the Youth Council on its achievements. He thought the quality of young people who had come through the Youth Council was very good and the future of the district was in good hands.

The Youth Councillors departed the meeting at 6.08pm

4. PROPOSED BUILDING CONTROL FEE ADJUSTMENTS (SC2458)

A memo had been received from the Building Control Manager clarifying and recommending adjustments to several existing building fee charges within the Council's current schedule of fees and charges. The suggested amendments were recommended to recover actual costs incurred whilst assessing and performing the tasks associated with each activity. The proposal was a result of anomalies found within the existing fee structure for various fee categories that were commonly used, however, the fee charged was found to be inadequate to cover the cost of actual staff resources expended.

Compliance and regulatory functions were the two areas that had received a higher degree of attention in recent years from prospective owners, lawyers and Councils. The only categories that required to be assessed for adjustment at this time included notice to fix (current fee \$150, proposed \$500), schedule 1 exemption acceptance/filing fee (current fee \$40, proposed \$80), minor variation acceptance/filing fee (current fee \$40, proposed \$80) and durability modification (no current fee, proposed \$80).

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

AND THAT the recommended fee adjustments as below, be adopted and take effect from 1 October 2019:

| Building fee adjustments | New fee from 1 October 2019 |
|--|--|
| Notice to fix (This is the regulatory function undertaken once all other options are exhausted, usually issued for a breach of the Building | \$500.00 - for <u>each</u> specified person issued to. (<u>Plus</u> time spent to inspect, compile the notice and re-inspect for compliance, at standard hourly rate) |

| | |
|--|---|
| Act , illegal building works or for non-compliant building works alerted to us or found on site) | |
| Schedule 1 exemption acceptance/filing fee | \$80.00 |
| Minor variation acceptance/filing fee | \$80.00 (Plus time spent to compile and assess) |
| Durability modification | \$80.00 (Plus time spent to compile and assess) |

2019/95

5. BUILDING CONSENT STATISTICS

A copy of the building consent statistics for August 2019 had been circulated with the agenda for the Council's information.

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

2019/96

6. PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION – LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND FINANCING DRAFT REPORT (SC2458/SC2032)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive following the release in July of a comprehensive report from the Productivity Commission into Local Government Funding and Financing. Councillors had been provided with a hard copy of the report which provided comprehensive analysis on the challenges that faced local government in New Zealand.

The Council had commented on a draft submission prepared by Local Government New Zealand and opted to prepare its own submission focusing on particular points of concern that the Council had with the suite of recommendations submitted by the Commission. A copy of the Council's submission had been circulated with the agenda.

Cr Reid said a lot of people in the community benefitted from the rates rebate scheme and she did not want to see it phased out.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Bolger, **THAT** the submission be received and endorsed.

2019/97

7. CAPITAL WORKS COMMITTEE – AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE (SC2413)

The Chief Executive had advised that at its inaugural meeting on 31 July, the Capital Works Committee considered its terms of reference. The Committee requested an amendment to be made to address planning for the initiation of projects for

subsequent presentation to the Council for adoption. A copy of the updated terms of reference had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Phillips, THAT the amended terms of reference for the Capital Works Committee be adopted.

2019/98

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT (SC1299)

A health and safety report had been received from the Human Resources Manager. The report covered Gore District staff training, details of the incident schedule for the period 11 June to 14 August 2019, annual departmental audits and the tragic fatality at the Gore oxidation ponds that had occurred on Tuesday 29 January 2019.

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

2019/99

9. REPORT FROM GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE (SC2425)

A copy of the report from, the Grants Subcommittee meeting held on 22 August had been circulated with the agenda.

The Council Committee Chairs had specifically asked that the application from the Eastern Southland Hockey Association be included with the agenda to give Councillors a better appreciation of the context in which the Committee had framed its recommendation.

Cr D Grant said the grant requested by Eastern Southland Hockey had generated a lot of discussion at the Subcommittee meeting.

Cr Highsted was a member of the Council when the loan to hockey had originally been granted. He recalled the money was for additional carparking when the hockey turf had been established. Since the turf was developed, he felt the carparking was clearly used by more than those playing hockey and in fact by all of the people who visited the sports complex. He wondered if the Council could reconsider the recommendation of the Grants Subcommittee and approve a grant.

Cr P Grant thought hockey had been harshly treated. The rugby and netball clubs had their grounds maintained by the Council. The Council did nothing for hockey. While it had 220k in the bank, that was for replacement of its turf.

His Worship felt a \$10,000 grant was appropriate. The hockey turf was located on Council land. It was being used more often as a multi-purpose venue. Carparking at the sports complex was becoming more of an issue and would need to be addressed in the future.

Cr D Grant said the Subcommittee did not have a budget. Grants were not discretionary; they were ratepayer funded. The causes were all worthy. He said perhaps if there was a budget set, the Subcommittee could work within that.

His Worship said the Grants Subcommittee was a new committee and its recommendations would be considered by the Council. He was not sure a budget would assist. Considering each grant helped the Council understand the value being brought to the community. He felt the Council needed to have a big picture view and look at the value. He knew the cost was also important, but the value of the organisations concerned was too.

Cr Highsted asked if future reports to the Council contain a funding impact statement from the Chief Financial Officer so that when the recommendations were forthcoming it would help the Council understand the financial impact.

Cr Gardyne added the Chief Financial Officer had indicated that new grants would impact on rates.

Cr Bolger was reluctant to go against the recommendation of the Subcommittee. He expected hockey would come back to the Council at some time in the future.

Cr Highsted believed the Grants Subcommittee had a role and in this situation, there were some circumstances in the background that had not been available to it.

Cr Highsted moved THAT in respect of item 4.11 from the Grants Sub-Committee meeting held on 22 August 2019, the Council approve a grant of \$10,000 to the Eastern Southland Hockey Association.

The motion was seconded by Cr P Grant.

In response to Cr Sharp, His Worship said hockey was building a 600k asset on the Council's property and was asking for a 10k grant. He thought it was reasonable.

Cr Davis wondered if a better channel may be to present to the next annual plan.

Cr P Grant said the point of the Subcommittee was to avoid groups having to go through the annual plan process.

Cr Beale said the facility had been at the sports complex for several years. He questioned whether the Council should be contributing.

Cr P Grant said if hockey was still being played at Hamilton Park, then the Council would be bearing the cost of keeping the turf in order, mowing and other maintenance.

Cr Highsted reminded the Council of the annual cost of running the event centre which was used mainly for netball along with the running cost of the swimming pool and the

subsidies that went into the ice rink for its operational costs. Those costs were significant. The request from hockey was for only 10k.

Cr Phillips said if the Council started agreeing one group deserved 10k to upgrade their building, then there would be other requests made. There had to be an end. He suggested waiting and seeing. It was ratepayer's money and the Council had to be concerned with every dollar it spent.

His Worship spoke about the value of organisations who sought assistance from the Council. It was not a formulaic decision. The Council was elected to make decisions on behalf of the community. All organisations needed to be taken on their merit.

Cr Gardyne said the Subcommittee had all financial information before it. The hockey association had cash in the bank and a lot of support. It had good cashflow. In response to His Worship, Cr D Grant said the replacement of the turf was about \$400,000 and the Association currently had about half in the bank. Cr P Grant added hockey was charging a surcharge that went specifically towards the turf replacement. It was an organisation that was well organised and proactive.

Cr Davis thought the Council should wait and see and that hockey should come back to the Council if it had exhausted all other avenues of funding.

Cr Highsted's motion was put and it was carried.

2019/100

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Dickson, THAT the report of the meeting of the Grants Subcommittee held on 22 August 2019 be received,

AND THAT with the exception of the recommendation relating to item 4.11, the recommendations contained in the report be ratified.

2019/101

His Worship asked about the CPI adjustment for the Waikaka Domain Board and where that left other organisations.

The Chief Executive said the A&P Association received an annual CPI adjustment.

His Worship thought it could spawn requests from other organisations. The Chief Executive said the Council did an informal CPI catch up of grants made.

The Building Control Manager departed the meeting at 6.44pm

10. WELCOME TO SIGNAGE (SC0476)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive that provided a more detailed estimate of costs for the installation of billboard "welcome to" signs at the three main entrances to Gore – State Highway 1 south and north-east and State Highway 94.

This was in keeping with the resolution the Council made at its December 2018 meeting, where Councillors resolved to accept the simple, more traditional option at an estimated cost of \$7,221 (plus installation) per sign, plus enabling work.

The understanding of the staff was that the Council's decision was principally based on cost. The costs presented for each option in the previous staff report were based solely on the core cost of each sign. There would be some fixed costs for enabling work. The cost to establish on each site and install the billboard with the appropriate foundation would be in the range of \$3,000-5,000 per site. To complete the installation costings, decisions needed to be made on the makeup of the sign, the positioning, whether to include lighting or landscaping or to develop pull-off areas.

Some sample design proofs had been tabled for discussion at a workshop on 9 September. Following a robust discussion, a consensus was reached that an image of an angler on the Mataura River as a backdrop would be the best image. Amendments were sought in terms of reducing the size of the logo and "Welcome to" lettering, while increasing the size of "Gore" on the sign. The reverse of each sign would have "Farewell from Gore". Councillors had also asked that solar lighting be incorporated if possible. A revised proof of the preferred image had been circulated with the agenda.

The Council had \$60,000 set aside in its 2015-25 Long Term Plan, to be funded by loan. The amount remained in the Council's financial forecasts. The total estimated cost of the Gore signage for three signs was \$28,500 which included a 10% contingency.

The New Zealand Transport Agency would need to approve the makeup of the signage as possible as the positioning.

Cr Davis moved THAT the report be received,

THAT the Council approve the new "Welcome To" signs for Gore based on the second image circulated with the report, and the "Farewell from Gore – Thank you for visiting"

THAT the Council approve the total signage construction expenditure of \$28,500 including contingency,

AND THAT a Council representative be designated to work with staff to assist with decision making and gain some steer on the wishes of the Mataura community.

The motion was seconded by Cr D Grant.

Cr Dickson questioned whether "Farewell" needed to be included. Could there be something else? Cr D Grant suggested "*Haere rā from Gore. Thank you for visiting.*"

The Council concurred with the suggestion.

Cr Phillips said the Mataura community was working away quietly on its signs. If he needed assistance from another Councillor he would raise it.

The motion incorporating the change from “*Farewell to Haere rā*” was put, and it was carried.

2019/102

11. GREAT SOUTH – DRAFT STATEMENT OF INTENT 2019-2022 (SC2328)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with a draft Statement of Intent that had been prepared by Great South. The document had recently been endorsed by the Joint Shareholders Committee and was being forwarded to the shareholders of Great South for feedback prior to final adoption. The document was high-level and a solid foundation on which to fulfil the objectives set by Great South.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the Council endorse the draft Statement of Intent for Great South.

2019/103

His Worship presented a certificate to Cr Beale in recognition of his contribution to the Council over 15 years. He had been dedicated and enthusiastic for a long time.

The meeting concluded at 6.58pm