

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE, ON TUESDAY 19 MAY 2009, AT 9:00 AM

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Crs Bolger, Davis, Dixey, Dixon, Gardyne, Grant (from 10.32 am), Harvey, Highsted, Sharp (from 1.10 pm) and McLennan.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones) and six members of the public in the gallery.

APOLOGIES Crs Grant and Sharp apologised for lateness and Cr Heller apologised for absence.

1. HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2009-19 GORE DISTRICT LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN (46.35.4)

His Worship explained the hearing provided for 10 minutes for each submitter and the schedule was tight. A bell would sound 5 minutes through each address. The day was to enable Councillors to obtain additional information not an opportunity for debate. He asked Councillors to respect that. It was fitting to declare any conflicts of interest that individual Councillors had. He asked for that advice to be now given.

The Council *noted* the following conflicts of interest:

His Worship the Mayor - the Community Trust of Southland
Cr Dixey – Gore Pakeke Lions Club
Cr Harvey – Southland Community Wastebusters Trust and Citizens Advice Bureau

In response to His Worship, no questions were forthcoming from the Council.

Submission No 23 – George Carson

Mr Carson said his main objective was to encourage the Council to promote growth which must come from diversification of land use in his opinion. There were three main areas to his submission. He believed more cropping or intensive land use in the Mataura Valley was needed to take advantage of the possible requirements of the northern hemisphere in terms of food if rice crops continue to diminish. He understood the crops had diminished considerably in the last few years. Likewise, with climate there was evidence that some major rivers would flood. At the same time, the South Island had a unique opportunity and a unique climate. It had the capacity to provide enough food for maybe 100 million people. The Chinese were aware that the South Island had a wide range of productive soils. It was important for the Government to enable more trade with China. It was also known that China had financial reserves of perhaps USD2 trillion and if put under pressure would probably not hesitate to buy food. With intensive land use there would be more subdivision which would create more wealth and jobs and encourage young people to stay. It would offer diversification. He said there should be a significant industrial area developed to allow the growth of industries and factories. There was a scarcity of industrial land around Gore. It was believed that Invercargill City had decided to develop a land bank of several hundred hectares. He believed the Gore District Council should do the same thing. The benefits of an industrial land bank included offering a range of sizes so that industries did not have to spend a lot of time searching for land to meet their needs. A problem faced by the former Gore Borough was a lack of sufficient industrial land. He added a residential land bank needed to be seriously increased for controlled development within close proximity for educational, church, cultural and shopping requirements. He had commented on the need for stormwater and to forget the policies of the past about off street parking where suburban streets seemed to be formed for significant on-street parking which was extremely unlikely to ever happen. The cost of those mistakes had caused rating burdens on current ratepayers. He suggested that some projects be reduced or put in abeyance in the event of a major economic crash. It was his view that although many commentators thought the country was past the worst of the economic decline, there were many international analysts who disagreed and he believed the country was in the

eye of the hurricane. He believed the Council needed to strengthen the District by having a larger area if possible. At the time of the Gore Borough reorganisation in 1989 it became difficult or impossible for a significant Council to be formed in this area. He believed if there was to be a reorganisation that it should look at both Otago and Southland.

Cr Harvey asked when the last time Mr Carson had worked fulltime for a local authority. Was it when he was in Gore in 1989?

Mr Carson confirmed it was. He did work for the Canterbury Health Board subsequent to that.

In response to Cr Harvey, Mr Carson said he had been involved in recommending setting up an initiative for the growing of flower bulbs. Subsequently that became flowers. He was one of the main promoters of what is now Southern Flora. He was a shareholder.

Cr Gardyne asked Mr Carson saw Dolamore Park being better placed as a Southland regional park rather than a responsibility of the Gore District Council.

Mr Carson would like to think it would remain with the current Council. The balance of Southland had similar parks to Dolamore Park and he thought it needed to be retained within the Gore District.

Submission No 40 – Sally McIntyre

- ↳ Mrs McIntyre read a verbal submission which is attached hereto and forms part of these minutes.

Submission No 30 – Rural Ratepayers Group

- ↳ The group was represented by Messrs Mark Copland and Peter Hargest. P Hargest read the submission which is attached and forms part of these minutes.

Cr Davis commented that the concrete grinder was in use on footpaths and if the group had checked in with the Roding Manager it would have known that.

Submission No 44 – Federated Farmers, Eastern Southland

The presentation was presented by Messrs Andrew Morrison and John Gardyne.

Arts and heritage – Mr Morrison provided a further recommendation that the building report commissioned for former Smith's City building be available prior to any development taking place so that people know what is proposed.

Aquatic Centre – Mr Gardyne encouraged the Council to apply the electricity savings to debt reduction.

Roading – Mr Morrison asked how the Council could be 92% compliant with its roads yet 62% of those surveyed were dissatisfied. He suggested a Working Party be established with the Council and Federated Farmers to try and resolve the problems identified.

Cr Bolger asked what roads should be funded District wide. He suspected a bigger contribution to the roading budget from urban ratepayers. Did he have a figure in mind?

Mr Morrison replied the roading budget could be put in a pot and divide it up. He was highlighting the fact that if parks and reserves were District wide, then so could roading and it could be divvied up on a population basis.

Cr Gardyne said Federated Farmers had submitted to the Council over a number of years. He asked how it had rated the Council on response to submissions, especially on the Roothing Bylaw and how it had listened to submissions and acted upon them.

J Gardyne replied it was patchy. He referred to arts and heritage that Federated Farmers had submitted on in the past. There was some interaction which was good, but they would like to see more.

Mr Morrison thought community halls and civic buildings would be a good one to review. The Council had basically disregarded the Federation's previous submissions. It wanted to work with the Council. Throwing dollars at problems was not always the answer.

His Worship thanked the representatives for their time and for working with the Council in the past on certain matters.

His Worship referred to his comment at the start of the meeting when he had asked Councillors to declare conflicts of interest. He understood Cr Gardyne had been a former Chairman of Eastern Southland Federated Farmers. If he was still a member he thought it fitting to declare the conflict.

Cr Gardyne replied he paid a subscription to New Zealand Federated Farmers and was no longer involved with Eastern Southland.

Submission No 35 – Federated Farmers, Southland

Mr David Cooper represented Federated Farmers, Southland and congratulated the Council on the level of its rates increase to an average of 3.93% over the next 10 years which was substantially better than other Councils had managed. The Southland District Council was projecting 6.93%, which was a significant difference. However, the increase proposed by Gore was still above the rate of inflation.

He congratulated the Council on using the full level of the UAGC.

The organisation suggested the Council reduce the amount it paid to Venture Southland in light of having appointed a Community Development Officer.

He said the Council's attempts to consult with the Federation's members fell short this year and encouraged the Council to consider taking its expo out of town to better consult with the rural ratepayers and residents.

Cr Harvey clarified the statement made about the Community Development Officer position and stated there was no funding paid by the Council to Venture Southland for community development. It's contribution was mainly for tourism activities.

Cr Davis asked what he meant by in house gravel maintenance.

Mr Cooper replied it was making sure what was paid for got done and what ratepayers asked for was followed through with. He realised the trend was to contract these services out but members believed they were losing out.

Cr Davis asked if it was thought it would be a better or more cost effective option.

Mr Cooper was unable to answer that question. The survey resulted in 62% of ratepayers dissatisfied.

His Worship asked if it was a view of Federated Farmers to have an in-house operation as opposed to contracted out, free market tender.

Mr Morrison said if the Council had a local authority trading entity the Council had the ability to tender work. Federated Farmers were trying to work out where the problem was. Either the parameters for the specifications for roading were not high enough or were not being met. One way of meeting it was through a local authority trading entity.

His Worship asked if they sought an in-house system that had happened previously, as opposed to a free market tendering system.

Mr Morrison wanted to explore how it could be done.

His Worship said he would be interested if Federated Farmers were able to provide details of that occurring elsewhere in the country.

Cr Bolger asked if it was legal and could result in being a greater cost, how would Federated Farmers feel.

Cr Gardyne called a point of order. The question was irrelevant.

Mr Morrison said if the Council thought it could be done more expensively or cheaper they would be interested. He was interested in a breakdown in the audit system or the specifications being met with how 92% of roading could be compliant yet 62% were dissatisfied. He wanted to explore the options of improving those figures.

Submission No 47 – Jeremy McPhail

Mr McPhail presented his submission which concerned the frequency of grading of gravel roads.

Submission No 42 – Robin McGowan

Mr McGowan presented his submission.

His Worship clarified the open letter dated September 2008 to

the Council and newspapers referred to by Mr McGowan that had not been replied to by His Worship was a misunderstanding. He apologised for that and undertook to respond to it.

It was his contention that the setting of rates by the Council was legal; however, the sub total of the plan was illegal.

He totally disagreed with the targeted rates for parks and reserves. If he and other ratepayers had been charged rates that were not legal, he wanted to see them reimbursed. He had still to receive a response from his letter to the Auditor General.

Cr Bolger referred to the fixed targeted rate for parks and reserves and if the Council did away with that, then it would have to go back to a valuation rate. Some larger commercial farmers were disadvantaged by that. He asked if Mr McGowan was happy to go back to a valuation based rate.

Mr McGowan said he was and invited Councillors to compare what happened in the Clutha District. A \$3 million rural property in the Clutha District would pay \$166.80 as opposed to the situation in the Gore District where \$260 was the basic rate and in his situation, because he had two dwellings on his property, he paid a total of \$530.

His Worship clarified Mr McGowan preferred a valuation rate as opposed a fixed rate.

Mr McGowan said no, it would have to be both in the UAGC and a valuation rate. The total amount of the fixed charges should not exceed 30%.

Cr Gardyne commented about parks and reserves. It was a belief that rural people got a tax deduction about parks and reserves which was untrue. The letter dated 7 September 2008 addressed to the Mayor and Councillors and made a particular point that he hoped it would be considered in the workshops prior to preparing the plan. What was the level of his frustration about Councillors not receiving that letter before workshops were held.

His Worship clarified that Councillors did receive a copy of the letter, including Cr Gardyne. Everyone was aware of the letter.

Cr Gardyne said if a letter was addressed to the Mayor and Councillors he had an obligation to bring it to the attention of the Council.

Mr McGowan understood Councillors had received a copy of his letter.

Cr McLennan agreed with Mr McGowan's rating of the proposed wind farm. He believed the Council historically had been remiss with its negotiations with Rayonier, but there was another opportunity coming up that would of benefit to the Gore District.

Submission No 33 – New Zealand Transport Agency

Mr Ian McCabe presented the submission. He highlighted two areas of it, with the first one relating to activity classes for roading. The LTCCP talked about CAPEX, but in terms of the Regional Land Transport Programme and the activity classes a slightly different meaning had been put on it to what was intended by the LTCCP. He suggested they be linked with the terminology contained in the Regional Land Transport Programme. There was also a different financial assistance rate that applied for capital items.

He also referred to the financial contributions in the LTCCP. The Agency recognised the District Plan contained provision for financial contributions but there appeared a slight inconsistency between the Council's financial contribution policy and the finance and revenue policy.

In response to Cr Gardyne, Mr McCabe said the works being promoted in the LTCCP were road renewals and minor improvements which qualified for the base subsidy rate but not the additional 10%. He was suggesting there could be an expectation in the way the LTCCP was framed that there could be a 66% subsidy available depending on the class of work carried out, but that was not the case.

Submission No 31 – Sustainable Transport Southland

The submission was presented by Mr Ken Wuschke. He highlighted a couple of areas of his submission. The word cycling only appeared once in the Plan. Some things that could be addressed in a direct way was sealing River Road between Diamond Peak Road and SH93 which would provide an alternative route between Gore and Invercargill. It would

increase the tourism potential also. He also suggested developing a route between the Gore township and Dolamore Park as a cycleway. Cycle tourism was increasing throughout New Zealand and the world. He had found in the time he had been living in Southland was that the Gore District and the Waimea Plains area was extremely scenic and beautiful.

Cr Dixey asked if Mr Wuschke knew of a good source of funding to construct the cycleways.

Mr Wuschke said Councils now had to have cycle strategies and the New Zealand Transport Agency had funding available.

Submission No 32 – New Zealand Landcare Trust

The submission was presented by Mrs Janet Gregory. The submission sought assistance from the Council for \$5,000 per year for five years to assist with undertaking an inventory of nature areas to private land throughout Southland. She referred to the rates rebate scheme offered by the Southland District Council to those landowners who had covenants under the QEII Trust and suggested that the Gore District also implement a similar scheme.

Cr Grant now attended the meeting at 10.32 am

Mrs Gregory referred to recent publicity about water quality and community groups looking to protect the areas around river margins. She supported the work of those groups who were looking to the Council for leadership. Many people had also suggested an environmental category in the Community Awards.

Submission No 13 – Wayne Harpur

Mr Harpur presented his submission which sought support from the Council in advocating a legislative change that would result in enabling legislation giving validity to whole of province binding referenda on local body amalgamations.

Southland had a lot of projects on the way and he believed strongly they should be looked at from a regional perspective rather than a district one. He had previously told the Invercargill City Council that businesses amalgamated to achieve economy of scale. He was not asking for endorsement of a One Southland concept. He was asking for support to ask the Minister to have some enabling legislation so that if the

people of Southland as a whole chose to progress then the legislation reflected the ability for it to be able to happen.

His Worship referred to some organisations being more interested in sharing resources and working collaboratively. Could he explain that.

Mr Harpur said the three bin recycling initiative was one. Some things happened as a think tank and then each Council does its own thing, but the economy of scale could be done as a one off decision.

His Worship said he realised the Council was being asked for enabling legislation for a binding referendum. He asked about a One Southland and those communities of interest that may cross boundaries; particularly in the Gore District and the communities of interest served by Gore that cross over other provincial boundaries in particular.

Mr Harpur replied it would be how it would be structured and the tiers below it. Not all decisions made should be regionally, but rather as near to the coal face as they can be. There were certain issues particularly with the magnitude of some of the projects on the horizon that a holistic approach was needed and good governance should always prevail.

Cr Dixon did not agree with One Southland, but thought Environment Southland could be taken over by the other territorials which would eliminate duplication.

Mr Harpur said he was asking for legislation in place so should someone convince the population of Southland, that there was no hindrance to that.

Cr Davis asked what the Invercargill City Council's projected rate rise was this year and for the next 10 years.

Mr Harpur did not believe it was part of the submission. He said the projected rates rise this year was 7.9%.

Cr Harvey said the biggest issue coming from the proposed Auckland amalgamation was lack of communication. How would the rural ratepayers in Waikaka or Kaiwera get on. They could be a long way from the centre which posed difficulties with communicating.

Mr Harpur said the Southland District had one of the largest geographic areas in the country. The feedback he had had was the rural sector was probably more in favour of the suggestion.

Cr Gardyne said as long as one TLA thought it was running a better ship than the whole could representing its interests then it went no-where. Gore lived in fear it could be dominated by a bigger authority but it was perceived to be running a fairly tight ship. The Auckland situation would become a huge metropolis and clearly for a population of 100,000 Southland was over-governed.

His Worship said bearing what was being asked for and a binding referendum situation, how would that place the residents of the Gore District with a small population compared with Invercargill City residents who would dominate both Southland and Gore Districts in terms of numbers.

Mr Harpur said it was obvious an area that would cause concern, but no different to Maitai people, or Te Anau or Winton or Heddon Bush. It was about making sure the connection went right the way down.

His Worship clarified there were 11 Councillors in the Gore District, not 12.

Submission No 43 – Community Trust of Southland

His Worship declared an interest and vacated the Chair. Cr Bolger assumed the Chair.

The submission was presented by Messrs Peter Redpath, Deputy Chair and John Prendergast, Chief Executive.

Mr Redpath said the submission concentrated on two themes and when looking at capital projects in particular was the importance of partnership. The Trust had to ensure that the capital and maintenance costs were assured from the outset. It had to consider and carefully balance its role as a community funder and its desire to work in partnership with other organisations, particularly the local authorities. It had been very pleased to have worked alongside the Gore District Council and looked forward to continuing that partnership in the future.

In the partnership vein, the Trust wished to speak about two projects one of which was included in the Plan - the proposed hydroslide and the other, which was not in the Plan - identifying

and addressing the operational and capital maintenance funding requirements of the multi-sports centre.

Mr Prendergast referred to the proposed hydroslide project which looked to be a good one for 2013-14 and expected the Council may approach the Trust for funding assistance, however, the Trust would expect that the Council would also be making a contribution towards it. The second project was more immediate – the indoor events centre. The Trust has been very happy to be a funding contributor towards it. However, the Trust saw the operational funding requirements that arose from those projects as being more the responsibility of the Council. The whole multi-sports complex was the initiative of the Gore District Council in its three components. When the stadium component was considered the Council did not contribute. The Trust had contributed its capital funding along with the Mataura Licensing Trust. The issue of operating costs of facilities was now more clearly in focus than it was five years ago. The view of the Trust was that there needed to be a clear asset management plan for the facility and the Trust asked for the assistance of the Council in compiling the plan and then look to include provision in its budget to meet any operational costs in the future.

Cr Harvey referred to Stadium Southland as a good example as far as operating costs went. Had Invercargill City assisted with an asset management plan?

Mr Prendergast confirmed it had. Invercargill City and Southland District staff had put together a comprehensive asset management plan. The current debate with operational costs had arisen partly because of that plan.

Mr Redpath said the asset management plan identified in today's dollars that money had to be provided each year to keep it as a top operating facility.

Cr Gardyne said Southland could be blessed with funders and perhaps more discipline in the approach by the various funders and Councils to projects being funded. He also referred to the capital and maintenance requirement and whether the Trust took any recognition of the deposits from a catchment like the Gore District in terms of what its responsibilities were.

Mr Prendergast said there definitely needed to be discipline between funders when making capital expenditure decisions.

The Trust took into account any community funding. In this case, there had been strong community support in terms of support for the ice rink component and the stadium which had significant community fundraising. The Trust was acutely aware of where it came from but it did not track back to how much of its funding came from certain areas of the province. It ensures that funding was geographically spread.

Cr Gardyne referred to the Community Trust and the Mataura Licensing Trust having responsibility for ongoing maintenance costs. Did they see themselves as funders for that?

Mr Redpath said the Trust did not see itself as funding operational and capital maintenance costs over time. It was acutely aware that there needed to be a clear understanding of how the facilities were to be funded and maintained into the future.

Cr McLennan said if the Council did not take into account the operational costs what would the position of the Trust be to Gore in the future? He had to represent all ratepayers not just those who participated at the stadium.

Mr Redpath said irrespective of what happened with a particular project, the Trust would look at any project on its merits.

Cr McLennan said if the Council did not take up the operational costs, then the stadium people could go to the Community Trust.

Mr Redpath said the message the Trust was sending was it did not see itself as being directly involved in that role.

In response to Cr McLennan, Mr Redpath added at the establishment of the multi-sports complex was very much a Gore District Council initiative and that what was on the ground there remained there for the benefit of the community.

His Worship now assumed the Chair.

Submission No 20 – Invercargill City Council

His Worship the Mayor, Mr Tim Shadbolt, Cr Neil Boniface, Chief Executive Mr Richard King and Roger Clark, Chief Executive of Rugby Southland, were in attendance. A promotional DVD that had been produced by local Councils for the 2011 rugby world cup was shown.

- 4 A copy of the verbal submission presented at the hearing is attached hereto and forms part of these minutes.

Mr Clark said the DVD was a culmination of work put in by Councils and organisations south of the Waitaki. Rugby world cup 2011 would be the third largest global sporting event behind the Olympics and soccer's world cup based on global television audiences. It was expected that a total of \$476 million direct expenditure would result from the tournament in New Zealand. Total expenditure was estimated at \$5 billion. Southland was lucky enough to have two Saturday games over a 10 day period and the challenge was to entice those attending the games to stay and maximise the opportunities from their presence in the province. A good web site worth viewing was www.auckland2011.com.

Cr Boniface added the world cup was an event worth supporting. It was about partnership and it was felt the whole region would benefit. There would be a lot of tourists and benefit to the region not just Invercargill. He asked the Council to reinstate the \$13,067 into its budget. He would like Gore to be on board to reap the benefits of the event which he believed would be the biggest Southland had ever seen. It was possible Southland could host a home union, although that decision would not be made until later in the year.

His Worship, Mr Shadbolt, acknowledged it was a difficult time of the year for all Councils, but the region had to progress and the only way was to work together and every successful project he had been involved with in the region had involved partnerships particularly zero fees and Stadium Southland. Invercargill City was now having to look at contributing \$400,000 towards the stadium, but was loathe to do it. At the end of the day, what was cherished above all else was keeping locked into the strategic partners otherwise nothing would happen.

Cr Harvey said some people would say the Rugby Union should pay for it all. How much support was there from the Rugby Union?

Mr Clarke said Rugby New Zealand was funded 66% by the Government with the balance underwritten by the New Zealand Rugby Union which amounted to \$10 million. Rugby Southland had already put 500 man hours in and there would be a lot more to come.

Cr Harvey asked if there would be a flow down from Wellington to help pay for the games.

Mr Clarke said there was an expectation that the communities who wanted the events would get the flow on effects and benefits and those communities should fund them.

Cr Boniface said Invercargill City had not made its final decision, but it was proposing funding its share from the business community.

Cr Bolger asked if there was a projection as to how many people may visit Southland for the games to be held.

Mr Clarke said there were 35,000 people in the country for the Lions tour and Southland had hosted one game. There was an expectation there could be 66,000 for the world cup but it was hard to know just how many may be in Southland.

Cr Gardyne said \$350,000 was an extraordinary amount of money for an event that after 5-6 weeks there was no real legacy. There was no budget, no revenue streams and the group was asking the Council to write a cheque. Did they believe the country should be putting so much money from private people's pockets into an event that should be self funding?

Mr King replied a meeting had been held in Invercargill at which the Gore District Council had been represented, and full disclosure of the budget including the apportionment of the local share and that required from the Rugby Union was provided. A copy of that had subsequently been provided to the Gore District Council. He did not see the need to repeat that information with the submission.

Submission No 39 – Gore Pakeke Lions Club

The submission was presented by Mr John Falconer and supported by Messrs David Connor, Stuart McGuigan and Neil McPhail. Details of the recyclable materials collected was provided, composting options and a suggestion that a Stakeholders Group be established comprising key stakeholders including the Council, Paddy's Bins and Pakeke Lions. It was believed there was an opportunity for the Council, public and private operators to develop a partnership to enable the Club to continue as it was. It was putting around 200 hours per week

and as a result between 620-650 tonnes per annum was being diverted from the waste stream.

Mr Falconer acknowledged the relationship the Club had had with the Council in recent years and hoped it would continue. He referred to one Club member who expressed concern about older people living alone who did not want to be burdened with three bins. The Council had done a good job in encouraging residents to bring newspapers to the recycling depot, but he emphasised newspaper needed to be separated from cardboard and be free of contamination.

Submission No 22 – WasteNet Southland

The submission was presented by Messrs Jim Copland, Chairman Waste Advisory Group, WasteNet and Tom Greenwood, WasteNet representative. Mr Copland reminded the Council that WasteNet was a joint initiative of the three territorial Councils in Southland. The entity evolved as a result of the Councils being involved in establishing a regional landfill. The submission asked that the Council amend its Plan to enable it to be part of a regional waste procurement process.

In response to Cr Gardyne, Mr Greenwood said the organisation was not trying to prevent any community going through a consultation process with its ratepayers. Within the LTCCP the Council said it would conduct a consultation process in 2010-11. WasteNet was asking for amended wording in the LTCCP such that the Council could take advantage at a regional level in a procurement process. It was requested that the Council could still undertake its community consultation, but if the wording was not changed, the Council was then outside the process and WasteNet could not put in a submission into the contestable funding for additional funding because one of the partners was outside the process. It was still possible for the other two partners - Invercargill City and Southland District to continue - but the application would lose some of its strength.

Cr Bolger asked if there was a suggested wording.

Mr Greenwood said he did and tabled his suggestion.

His Worship asked if it was possible WasteNet could not go to the market on the basis that Gore may or may not be a partner.

Mr Greenwood replied it could, but it took away a lot of the effort a contractor may put in.

Submission No 12 – Bill and June Dore

Mr Dore presented the submission and referred to papers he had received at conferences attended as a former Councillor in Wellington and Queenstown about waste management. He spoke about recycling. He practiced recycling himself and found the proposed provision of a green waste bin to be offensive. During his time as a member of the Council, he had visited many transfer stations and recycling centres. Of the transfer stations he had visited, he rated Gore at 5/10. It was not well planned for recycling and did not have a compaction system. It could not be regarded as a “tippers and slippers” version which was the ultimate. There was still a lot to be done and should be. There were mountains of bottles at other centres, including Gore and the only place to recycle them was in Auckland. The cost of transporting and handling was huge. There were many people who practiced recycling and a \$160 increase in rates was bad news for most people. Based on 4,500 ratepayers that he estimated were in Gore and Maitai, it amounted to \$720,000 which would be taken away from the business community. He presumed the Council would be borrowing money to pay for three wheelie bins.

Submission No 48 – Mrs Margaret Pullar

Mrs Pullar spoke to her submission which sought support for a walking cycling track from Gore to Mandeville. A map displaying the proposed route was displayed. She supported plans for a mountain bike-tramping track being promoted by Sport Southland. She believed Gore did not make enough of the beautiful bird and native life in the Whisky Creek area as well as the views. Gore had a higher than average population of people over 65 and many were no longer able to bike hills or climb tracks, but could cycle on safe and relatively flat tracks. Mrs Pullar had been amazed at the interest and enthusiasm from people she had spoken to along with those who had contacted her, without solicitation, about the proposal. There was immense enjoyment experienced from people of all ages who had ridden the Central Otago rail trail.

It was important that the feasibility study into a cycling/walking track from Gore to Mandeville be completed in good time to be forwarded to the officials in the Ministry of Tourism who were working on the proposed national cycleway.

Submission No 34 – Southland Community Wastebusters Trust – no representative in attendance

Submission No 11 – Glenys Dickson

Mrs Dickson presented her submission which related to climate change, water quality and landscape values. She believed there would be pressure to build more wind farms in the District and the aesthetic impact of them outweighed the drive for energy generated.

She was not advocating a lock up scheme for the Hokonui hills, but there was much to be protected. The District Plan protected the ridgeline, however, the change in land use through spraying, burning and hoofing by intensive stock management led to erosion and affected water quality.

Mrs Dickson encouraged the Council to put rules in place to mitigate the land use on water quality and protect the natural landscape in significant areas like the Hokonui hills.

Cr McLennan felt some issues Mrs Dickson had referred to were more aligned to the District Plan rather than the long term plan.

Mrs Dickson agreed but her submission was relevant to the climate change section. In response to Cr Bolger, she believed the Hokonui hills were the most significant part of Southland that needed protection. They were valued by a lot of people.

In response to His Worship, Mrs Dickson said Environment Southland had told her the Hokonui Hills had more protection under the old catchment board rules than they did now under the Resource Management Act or the Gore District Plan.

Submission No 24 – Community Networking Trust

Mrs Jill Ware presented the submission that sought to include a more comprehensive plan of how the Council intended to see the community outcomes achieved. She congratulated the Council on the appointment of a Community Development Officer. She said the responsibilities of local government had widened and become more complex. There were various areas that the Council needed community input that it did not previously have. The Trust believed in true community engagement that included disseminating information, consultation and encouraging active participation. There were many community organisations that were doing a great job but they could be improved if the collective resources of the region were used. The Council's consultation and collaboration processes could be improved.

Submission Nos 36 and 37 – Sport Southland

Mr Richard Pasco presented both submissions and spoke in support of a cycle/walkway alongside Reaby Road from Gore and along Kingdon Road to Pope Road. He had had a lot of very positive feed back from people about the opportunity to ride through native bush. Mr Pasco also supported cycleways being established along Charlton Road between Robertson Street and Terry Road and from Gore to Mandeville.

He said if there were more cycling opportunities for visitors to Gore they would stay longer and they could also encourage young people to return to the town. He supported the submission from Mrs Pullar and perhaps a feasibility study was the best way to progress it.

The second submission sought an increase to the annual contract fee paid to Sport Southland from \$15,500 to \$23,500.

Cr Bolger asked whether the Council would be involved with future maintenance of the cycleways.

Mr Pasco said community funding had been obtained for the track through the bush but not a lot of investigation about the other proposed cycleways had been done. There may be funding available from the New Zealand Transport Agency.

In response to Cr Dixon, the cost had not been investigated too greatly yet as it was uncertain just where the cycleway should be located alongside the roads.

Cr Gardyne asked if the cycling and walking strategy was the best way forward.

Mr Pasco referred to the Council's adopted Physical Activity Strategy that included a proposal for cycleways, but there were a lot of strategies being done and a lot of talk about them. There were a lot of proposals and things to look at. A strategy may slow things down.

Cr Highsted referred to the increase in funding. He asked for a budget to explain how the funding was expended.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 for lunch, and resumed at 1.09 pm. Cr Sharp was now in attendance.

Submission No 45 – Eastern Southland Chamber of Commerce

The submission was presented by Mr John Wilson, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. He emphasised that www.gorenz.com was the only dedicated website for Gore. The project had been driven by the Chamber and was the first point that people linked into who wanted to know about Gore. The website needed ongoing financial support to ensure the information was kept current. Other South Island towns had been contacted, and Oamaru received an overall tourism grant from the Waitaki District Council some of which was applied to maintaining its website. The number of hits the Gore site had received was averaging about 15,911 per week. In February 2008 it peaked at the highest number of 122,430 requests which co-ordinated with field days. To date in May, there had been 38,000 hits.

Cr Gardyne said district promotions used to be funded 50% by the central business area but that had lapsed over recent years. He asked whether the Chamber had a responsibility to make a contribution and other members in the community that had professional fees or levies to pay for their own industries.

Mr Wilson accepted the comment but said the website was bigger than that. The work done to date and the benefit was a lot smaller than what was hoping to be achieved. The reason for the approach to the Council was for overall promotion of Gore. The Chamber was seeking a contribution to get it up and running to a stage where it would become self funding. The marketing figure was an ongoing cost not a developmental cost. The Council was being asked for a contribution of \$1,500 towards getting the site going again.

Submission No 46 – Waikaka District Hall Society Incorporated

The submission was presented by Mr Bill Sutherland, Secretary of the Hall Society. He said the hall struggled with securing funding to finance the maintenance on the Waikaka hall. The submission sought a consistent policy to be adopted by the Council where all community halls were fully funded through the Council's district wide rates collection.

Submission No 5 – Sustainable Future – request to speak at hearing withdrawn.

The meeting adjourned at 1.20 pm, and resumed at 1:26 pm

Submission No 21 – John Adams

- ↳ A copy of the verbal submission presented by Mr Adams at the hearing is attached hereto and forms part of these minutes.

Mr Adams added the submission was his own thoughts and he was not seeking any funding from the Council. He encouraged consideration of the submission and the process.

Cr McLennan said it would be fair to say the Council had to find a balance with his suggestions and those that come from other people. He had not met anyone who could predict the future.

Mr Adams said the Council had to find a balance. He did not expect it was easy and that was why people elected Councillors.

Cr Bolger asked how Mr Adams measured recycling against the cost of it.

Mr Adams said his submission was not about his opinion on recycling. It was important to take on board the community views on recycling. Whatever system he may dream up was as good as any other and they all need to be put into the mix. In terms of cost, he thought it was being looked at backwards.

Cr Gardyne said there was a problem when he spoke about peak oil, the lignite fields etc. The reality was that New Zealand had not been sustainable for about 30 years. At the end of the day, everyone had to pay their bills. Did Mr Adams agree that a community group should be consulted prior to making decisions?

Mr Adams believed it would.

His Worship added that some earlier submitters had suggested stakeholder forums about recycling.

His Worship commented that he and all Councillors had constructive relationships with all stakeholders in the community.

The meeting adjourned at 1.49 pm and resumed at 1:53 pm

Submission No 9 – John Kennedy

Mr Kennedy presented his submission and spoke about the amount of rubbish he and others like him generate. His was a small household, as much as possible was compacted and he rarely visited the transfer station. He estimated he would put out about 20 bags a year and another \$160 a year for additional bins would not be welcome at all.

His Worship said the real challenge now was for Councillors to consider the additional comments made at the hearings and for the decisions to be made on each submission at the deliberative meeting to be held on Thursday 28 May.

In response to Cr Harvey, His Worship confirmed there would be staff comments provided for each submission.

The Chief Executive added that the agenda for the deliberative meeting would be distributed on Friday 22 May. In response to Cr Bolger, if the Council was uncertain of any issue, a workshop could be held prior to any final decisions being made.

Cr Gardyne suggested the two biggest issues in his opinion appeared to be recycling and the cycleway proposals and he suggested they be considered first which could then assist with considering other submissions.

The meeting concluded at 2 pm

